

Annual Congress **SKR/SCR 2013**

Aula Magna, Scuola universitaria professionale della Svizzera italiana (SUPSI),
Lugano

14 au 15 February 2013

Call for Papers

To coat or not to coat ?

Protective coatings : history, theory and practice.

The next annual congress and AGM of the Swiss Association of conservator-restorers (SCR) will take place at the SUPSI in Lugano on 14th and 15th February 2013. This year, the topic will be finishing or protective coatings.

The aim is intentionally twofold : on the one hand, to present research on original coatings used by artists and artisans to finish, protect or enhance the appearance of their creations ; the study of such materials often gives rise to valuable insight into artist's working practices and technology. On the other hand, the congress aims to look at materials used by conservators to, for example, protect artefacts from ageing or wear, to facilitate cleaning or to re-enhance appearance. Unfortunately, the history of conservation proves all too often that coating treatments have not always been successful, some even exacerbating decay, altering appearance and sometimes posing significant problems of removal. This in turn has led to questioning of the rationale of coatings and has prompted research and testing into more compatible and durable coating materials.

The SCR is inviting contributions from conservators, conservation scientists or researchers active in as many different fields of conservation as possible, be it easel painting, polychrome sculpture, furniture, wall painting, metalwork, bronze, stone, or stained glass, to cite just a few examples. It is intended to organise the congress proceedings under the following topics :

- **Original coatings** : materials and techniques used by artists and artisans to finish, enhance or protect their works ; how the study of original coatings leads to a better understanding of the practices and technologies of the past. For example : original varnishes on easel paintings, protective finishes on furniture ; original coatings on wooden objects, on stone or on wall paintings ; etc., etc.
- **History of conservation coatings and their removal** : what types of coatings have been applied to historic artefacts by conservators in the past ? With what consequences in terms of conservation ? Challenges posed by removal or reduction coatings. For example : wax, casein or soluble nylon coatings on wall paintings and stone ; protective coatings on stained glass and grisaille ; cellulose nitrate coatings on museum objects ; limewash coatings for stone ; etc., etc.
- **New coatings – current research** : scientific and in-situ testing of new coating materials for enhancement or protection of historic artefacts or architectural surfaces. For example : coatings for bronze sculpture ; oxalate treatments ; anti-graffiti coatings ; oil coatings for sandstone ; protection of contemporary exterior wall paintings ; synthetic coatings and paints for technical objects ; etc., etc.

Abstracts of no more than 15 to 20 lines can be addressed to skr2013@supsi.ch up until **5th October 2012**.

Please mention : name(s) of author(s), contact address, title of presentation ; abstract in either English, French, German or Italian, accompanied by a translation in ONE of the other languages.