

CONSERVATION MAKING ART HISTORY

A CLARK CONFERENCE
APRIL 8–9, 2021

PROGRAM

The conservation, preservation, and restoration of material culture has historically been closely joined to artistic practice and the study of the history of art. Over the last century, art conservation, art making, and the discipline of art history have become increasingly specialized and separated from one another—until recently. Developments in all three areas encourage a reconsideration of the innumerable threads that connect them to each other and to larger questions of cultural and environmental theory, anthropology, and philosophy. In this conference we will consider many past and present processes of maintaining, handling, reframing, and repurposing works of the past. Our aim is to put those methods into dialogue with wider frames of practice and thinking. The contributors to this conference consider how conservation involves forms of artistic making, frames philosophical examinations of time, shapes inquiry into human and non-human agency, focuses ethical debates about memory and identity, and models forms of inhabitation and cohabitation.

Circulated Pre-Recorded Lectures

SOUTHEAST ASIA: PERFORMANCE ART AND THE BODY POLITIC
Chương-Đài Võ, Asia Art Archive, Hong Kong

HISTORY OF CONSERVATION PRACTICES AT THE CRDS
Fatima Fall, Centre de Recherches et de Documentation du Senegal (CRDS), Saint-Louis,
Senegal
This presentation will be in French.

JAPANESE PAINTING: MOUNTING, MEDIATION, TRANSMISSION, RENEWAL
Yukio Lippit, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts

THE INFLUENCE OF CONSERVATION PRACTICE ON THE VIEWING AND APPRECIATION OF JAPANESE PAINTING

Iwataro Oka, Oka Bokkodo Co., Ltd., Conservation Studio for National Treasures and Important Cultural Properties, Kyoto, Japan

CONSERVING MONUMENTS, REVIVING TEMPLES: COMMUNITIES, MONUMENTS, AND POLITICS IN SOUTH INDIA

Kavita Singh, School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal University, New Delhi, India

Thursday, April 8, 2021

- 10:00 AM **WELCOME**
Caroline Fowler, Starr Director, Research and Academic Program, Clark Art Institute, Williamstown, Massachusetts
- 10:10 AM **INTRODUCTION: CONSERVATION AS PERFORMANCE**
Alexander Nagel, Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, New York
- 10:40 AM **REPAINTED MADONNAS IN FOURTEENTH-CENTURY SIENA AS ARTWORKS AND ART HISTORY**
Annika Svendsen Finne, Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, New York
- 11:00 AM **ART HISTORY AND THE RECONSTRUCTION OF SKILL**
Sven Dupré, Utrecht University and University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 11:30 AM **CONVERSATION**
- 12:00 PM **BREAK**
- 12:45 PM **ON MIMEOGRAPHIC LABOR AND THE ARTS OF CREATING THE SAME**
Fernando Domínguez Rubio, University of California, San Diego
- 1:05 PM **CHOREOGRAPHIES OF TECHNICAL ART HISTORY: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH**
Erma Hermens, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 1:25 PM **'STRUNG INTO WRITING, ENCHAINED INTO PAINTING': CONSERVATION IN THE PERSIANATE ALBUM**
Murad Khan Mumtaz, Williams College, Williamstown, Massachusetts

- 1:50 PM CONVERSATION
- 2:20 PM BREAK
- 2:50 PM ON DEATH AND ENTANGLEMENT: SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT LIFE,
LOVE, AND THE AIMS OF ART CONSERVATION
Alva Noë, University of California, Berkeley
- 3:10 PM CONCLUDING CONVERSATION

Friday, April 9, 2021

- 9:30 AM WELCOME
- 9:35 AM CONSERVATION IN CONVERSATION: ART HISTORY AND CULTURAL
HERITAGE IN THE MAKING
Noémie Étienne, University of Bern, Switzerland
- 9:55 AM MINIMUM WORLDS: MATERIAL POETICS BETWEEN TIME, DETAILS,
AND FRAGMENTS
Gabriela Siracusano, National Research Council, Argentina, and MATERIA:
Centro de Investigación en Arte, Materia y Cultura, Buenos Aires
- 10:15 AM BUT WHO DECIDED? EPISTEMES AND POLITICS OF DECAY
Jennifer Bajorek, Hampshire College, Amherst, Massachusetts
- 10:35 AM BREAK
- 11:00 AM THE BETTMANN MORGUE: COLD STORAGE, DIGITIZATION, AND
ARCHIVES OF RACIAL VIOLENCE
Brian Michael Murphy, Bennington College, Bennington, Vermont
- 11:20 AM DOES IT MATTER? CONSERVATION AND INSTITUTIONAL CRITIQUE
Caroline Fowler, Clark Art Institute, Williamstown, Massachusetts
- 11:40 AM CONCLUDING CONVERSATION
- 12:30 PM BREAK
- 1:30 PM ARTIST TALK: LOVES LABOR (EVENTUALLY) LOST

Ina Archer, National Museum of African American History and Culture,
Washington, DC

2:00 PM

RESPONSE AND CONVERSATION with Jacqueline Stewart, University of
Chicago, Illinois