

# II Masterclass 20|21

conservação  
restauro

## “WORKING WITH PLASTICS“

with Thea van Oosten and Anna Laganà

What are plastics? Historical development of plastics and rubber. Classification of types. Physical and chemical properties. Identification of plastics. Degradation of plastics and rubber. Solvents and plastics.

23, 24, 25 MARCH 2010

MUSEU DE SERRALVES  
PORTO, PORTUGAL

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20|21 **Conservação e Restauro** invites Thea van Oosten, senior conservation scientist at the Netherlands Institute for Cultural Heritage (ICN), specialised in the the conservation of synthetic materials (rubber, plastics, PVC) applied on modern and contemporary art, and Anna Lagana, modern and contemporary art conservator also at ICN.

Plastics are increasingly found in museum collections, for example in ethnographical and textile collections. They were used to imitate precious materials like ivory and amber. Plastics are also to be found in modern art collections, collections of household goods and in collections of scientific equipment. There are guidelines for passive conservation only; active conservation still has to be developed.

The main subject of this course is to acquaint you with the current state of knowledge regarding identification, degradation and conservation of plastics as used in cultural heritage. This course will be comprised of lectures, demonstrations and laboratory sessions in order to introduce participants to identification of plastics, physical and chemical qualities, causes and appearance of deterioration, preventive and active conservation measures, and issues such as handling and marking. There will be an emphasis on practical preventive conservation of plastics and rubbers as well as discussion about the challenges of active conservation.

**For whom?** Conservators, conservation scientists, restorers and curators.

**When?** 23rd to 25th March 2010, 9:30 to 17:45

**Where?** Multiusos Room, Museu de Serralves, Porto, Portugal

**For how much?** €530 (including VAT)

**How many participants?** 10

Please send the register form by e-mail to [2021@2021.pt](mailto:2021@2021.pt), including CV/portfolio.

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## DAY 1 | 23th MARCH

09:30 - Reception and documentation delivery  
What are plastics? Why do museums collect plastics? In which collections?

11:00 - Coffee Break

11:15 - Historical development of plastics and rubber.  
Classification of types.

12:30 - Lunch Break.

13:45 - Formulating and producing plastics.  
Physical and chemical properties and degradation of plastics and rubber.

15:30 - Coffee Break .

15:45 - 17:45 Practical work: Identification of plastics: session to identify types of plastics using non-destructive and destructive tests.

## DAY 2 | 24th MARCH

09:30 - Evaluation of day 1  
Film Ron Mueck: the making of art works.

11:00 – Coffee Break.

11:15 - Case studies : research into the conservation of art works.

12:30 - Lunch Break.

13:45 - Case studies : research into the conservation of art works.

15:30 - Coffee Break.

15:45 – 17:45 Practical work : solvents and plastics and adhering.

## DAY 3 | 25th MARCH

09:30 - Evaluation of day 2  
Identification of plastics objects (brought in).

11:00 - Coffee Break.

11:15 - Case studies: research into the conservation of art works.

12:30 - Lunch Break.

13:45 - Practical session: adhering PUR foams and encapsulating rubber objects.

15:30 - Coffee Break .

15:45 - 17:45 - Case studies and exhibition Serralves. Final discussion