



8TH ARCHITECTURAL FINISHES RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Keynote speakers

On 29 and 30 May, the afternoon programme starts with keynote speeches by Prof. dr. Claudine Houbart (ULiège) and Prof. dr. K. Katrien Keune (UvA Faculty of Science, Van 't Hoff Institute for Molecular Sciences). In this document, please find more information about both speakers.

29 May - Prof. dr. Claudine Houbart

Claudine Houbart is a lecturer at the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Liege. She teaches History and Theory of Heritage and is a researcher in the research unit Art, Archaeology and Heritage (AAP).

Claudine completed several masters degrees. She is an architect (ULiège, 1996), has a master in art history and archaeology (ULB, 2000) and an advanced master in Conservation of Monuments and Sites (KU Leuven, Raymond Lemaire International Centre for Conservation, 2002).

Parallel with a full-time job and three children she received her PhD, at the age of 43, in engineering sciences (KU Leuven, 2015) by questioning Raymond M. Lemaire's contribution in the field of urban renewal at the turn of the 1960s and 1970s. Now she is particularly interested in the process of elaboration of doctrinal documents, such as the Venice Charter (see project to/from Venice), and in the constitution and development of networks in the field of conservation-restoration (see LinkedHerit project).

Her research focuses on the history of the principles and practices of conservation-restoration in the 19th and 20th centuries (see among others the RE-Site project), as well as on the conceptualization of contemporary practices for the valorisation of an expanded heritage (CoToCoCo project).

She represents Belgium in the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Theory and Philosophy of Conservation, and is a member of the Association of Critical Heritage Studies.

About her lecture on 29 May 2024:

Holistic vs specialised approach to heritage: past and present

Since the mid-20th century, the built heritage field has witnessed a dual movement. There is a paradox surrounding the compartmentalisation and deepening specialization of principles and expertise in a preservation field, which is concurrently being perceived in an increasingly interconnected and holistic manner. With the benefit of historical hindsight, this contribution seeks to prompt consideration of sharing and uniting expertise for a comprehensive heritage outlook, aligned with the future challenges of sustainable development goals.

30 May – Prof. dr. K. Katrien Keune

Katrien Keune holds a PhD in chemistry (University of Amsterdam, 2005), is head of Science at the Rijksmuseum (2019) and Professor by special appointment of Molecular Spectroscopy, John van Geuns chair, Van 't Hoff Institute for Molecular Sciences (HIMS) at the University of Amsterdam (2021).

Seeing her father at work – a chemist with great passion for artists' materials - Katrien realised at an early age that she wanted to work in art conservation and that she wanted to do it through chemistry rather than art history; which at the time was not so evident.



Her field of research mainly deals with the ageing and degradation studies of the interaction of pigments and oil binders. Her doctorate research at FOM institute AMOLF (an academic institute for fundamental physics) focused on the interaction between pigment and binder in oil paint, titled 'Binding medium, pigments and metal soaps characterised and localised in paint cross-sections'. During her post-doctoral research at the National Gallery in London (NWO talent-fellowship) she studied the influence of pigments on chemical changes in artificially light-aged oil paint reconstructions.

Now she leads the Science department of the Rijksmuseum, a subdivision of Conservation & Science. This team of scientists with different expertise conducts research on the Rijksmuseum collection in close cooperation with curators, conservators and (technical) art historians with the aim of better understanding, managing and presenting the collection. The first challenge of the department was the large-scale investigation of Rembrandt van Rijn's famous *The Night Watch*, involving the use of advanced technology to determine the original intentions of the artist and how best to preserve the masterpiece for future generations. Again focusing on fundamental aspects of the molecular dynamics in oil paintings and the conservation practice. The gained knowledge can be made beneficial for other oil-painted heritage objects.

Katrien also initiated and leads a European consortium of researchers and conservators which aims to develop and promote preventive and remedial strategies for cultural heritage based on green principles. This GoGreen project (2022-2026, a Horizon Europa project) hopes to spearhead a green revolution within conservation and embrace the principles of the European Green Deal, developing innovative cleaning solutions for conservators that employ green solvents and bio-inspired reagents and a decision model for integrating green thinking in complex conservation decision making.

About her lecture on 30 May 2024:

The utilization of scientific techniques for the analysis of cultural heritage is experiencing a fast growth, leading to an enhanced understanding of the material use, composition and construction, and state of preservation of objects. Furthermore, these methodologies offer the capacity to monitor alterations over time. What options should be considered for practical use and can effectively address the posed inquiries? This lecture will cover the latest developments and possibilities of using scientific research and techniques. Drawing inspiration from the investigative endeavours undertaken within Operation Night Watch, the presentation will include techniques related to structural and material, non-invasive and invasive, macroscopic, microscopic and molecular research. In doing so, the talk will address how the techniques are deployable for AFR.