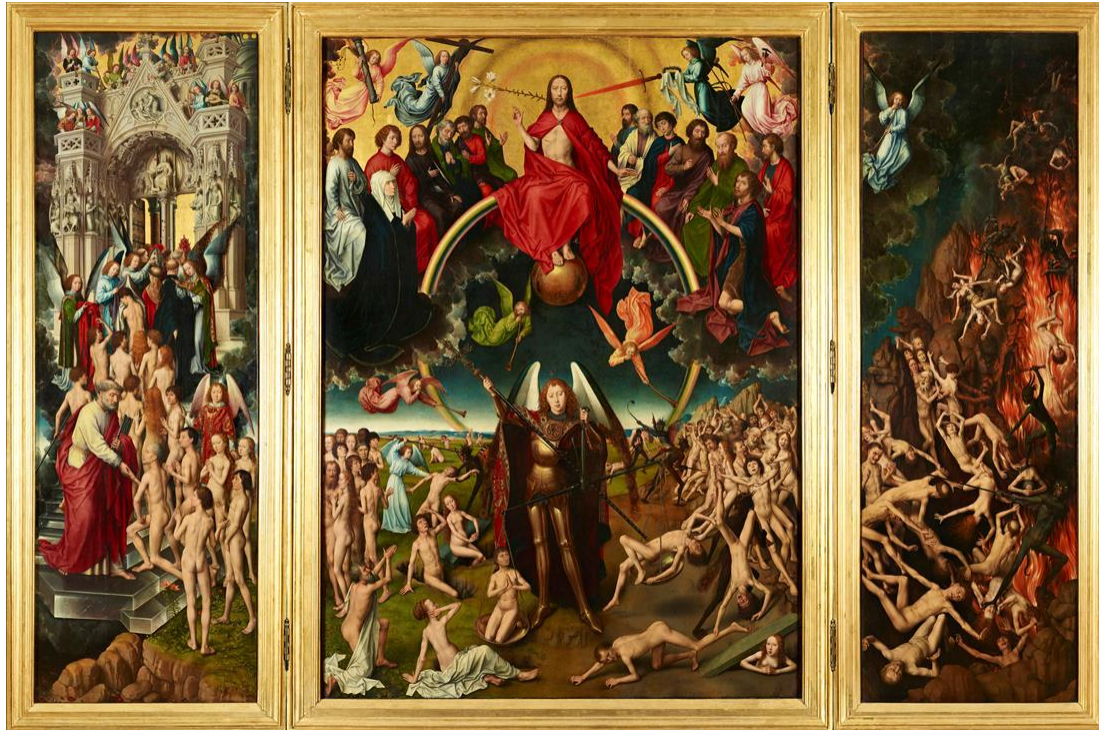


Conservation News

Updates from the Getty Conservation Institute

August 2026



Triptych of The Last Judgement, attributed to Hans Memling, Inv. number MNG/SD/413/M. © National Museum in Gdańsk

ANNOUNCEMENT

Francesca Casadio Arrives at Getty in September

Francesca Casadio, the next John E. and Louise Bryson Director of the Getty Conservation Institute, will begin her directorship on September 8, 2026. In this role, she will be responsible for the Institute's strategic vision, initiating and implementing key initiatives and research to continue to

improve cultural heritage conservation practice globally.

We look forward to welcoming Francesca to the Conservation Institute next month.

Tim Whalen will move full-time into his role as Vice President of Institutional Planning at Getty upon Francesca's arrival.



Photo: Clare Britt

TRIBUTE

Remembering Giacomo Chiari

Getty and the conservation community mourn the loss of Giacomo Chiari, former chief scientist at the Getty Conservation Institute, who passed away on July 29, 2026.

Giacomo joined the Conservation Institute in January 2003. As chief scientist, he oversaw the Science department and participated directly in scientific research. In addition to serving as project leader for Organic Materials in Wall Paintings, he was a team member or adviser on multiple projects, including our initial work at Herculaneum and research into injection grouts, desalination of porous building materials, consolidation of earthen architecture, and mosaics.

While at Getty he explored innovative ways to enhance scientific instrumentation used in conservation. He spearheaded a cooperative venture to design and build a portable, non-invasive X-ray diffraction (XRD)/X-ray fluorescence (XRF) device, the Duetto, that improved the quality of information obtainable from an art object without invasive sampling. He began the Institute's use of laser speckle interferometry to detect the presence of voids in walls due to delamination. And during his tenure, a computer tomography scanner was constructed at the Institute to record the interior details of small bronzes and sculptures. In addition, Giacomo modified the technology for imaging Egyptian blue pigment on mural paintings and ancient statues, making it portable; this technology was applied in work at Herculaneum and the tomb of Tutankhamen.

Giacomo was known as a generous colleague, eagerly sharing his expertise and knowledge across Getty. In 2012 he was awarded a silver medal by the environmental



and cultural heritage division of the Italian Chemical Society for his research in the field of cultural heritage.

In September 2013, Giacomo retired from Getty, remaining in Los Angeles until 2018, when he returned to Turin, Italy. Giacomo's legacy will endure in the students he taught, the technological advances he pioneered, and the institutions he served.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Conservation Guest Scholars Application Now Open

The Conservation Guest Scholars program provides opportunities for established scholars and professionals who have attained distinction in the cultural heritage conservation field.

Recipients are in residence at the Conservation Institute for a three-month residency, in which they pursue their own projects free from work-related obligations, make use of research collections at the Getty Center and Getty Villa, and participate with other Getty scholars, fellows, and interns in the intellectual life of Getty.

[Read details and apply for 2027–2028 residencies](#)

Deadline to apply is October 1, 2026.



International Course on the Conservation of Modern Heritage

Online: April 1–June 17, 2027

In-person: July 11–24, 2027, Los Angeles

Application opens September 1, 2026.

Designed for mid-career heritage professionals, the course explores the broad range of contemporary issues involved in the conservation of modern heritage—from theoretical and methodological approaches to the technical aspects of materials conservation.

Participants will learn from an international roster of well-established professionals and experts in the field, gaining diverse perspectives and practical insights into the challenges and opportunities of conserving modern heritage.

[Read course details and apply online](#)

Deadline to apply is October 5, 2026.



Getty Graduate Internships Application Opens in September

The Graduate Internships program provides training and work experience in departments across Getty that prepare graduate students for visual arts careers.

Graduate Internships are offered in the Getty Museum, Getty Conservation Institute, Getty Research Institute, Getty Foundation, Getty Publications, Getty Digital, Communications, and Development. Placements are typically available in areas such as curatorial, education, conservation, research,

publications, web and new media, public programs, digital projects, and grantmaking.

[Read details and learn how to apply for 2027–2028 internships](#)



Getty Post-Baccalaureate Conservation Internships Application Opens in September

The Getty Post-Baccalaureate Conservation Internships program aims to increase the number of students from underrepresented backgrounds preparing to enroll in graduate degree programs related to museum conservation.

The internships are the first nationwide effort to provide yearlong financial support and hands-on conservation experience to underrepresented post-baccalaureates who

are preparing to apply to conservation graduate programs.

[Read details and learn how to apply for 2027–2028 internships](#)



RECENT ACTIVITIES

Wall Paintings Conservation Specialists' Meeting

In June we hosted a specialists' meeting in Rome to assess global needs, challenges, and opportunities in wall paintings conservation and help shape future strategic directions for the field.

Held at Cornell University's Rome campus, the meeting brought together 28 international experts representing a wide range of geographic regions and disciplines.

Through small-group activities and plenary discussions, participants envisioned concrete action plans to address the needs of key focus areas, including training and education, scientific research, and conservation practice.



Photo: Giovanni De Angelis

Art and Science in Dialogue Symposium

In conjunction with the Wall Paintings Conservation Specialists' Meeting, a half-day symposium, Art and Science in Dialogue was held at Villa Farnesina, home to significant wall paintings by Raphael, Baldassare Peruzzi, Sebastiano del Piombo, and Il Sodoma.

Participants learned of recent scientific research conducted at Villa Farnesina, including studies addressing conservation issues through non-invasive investigative methods, and strategies for conserving the wall paintings and preserving the site.



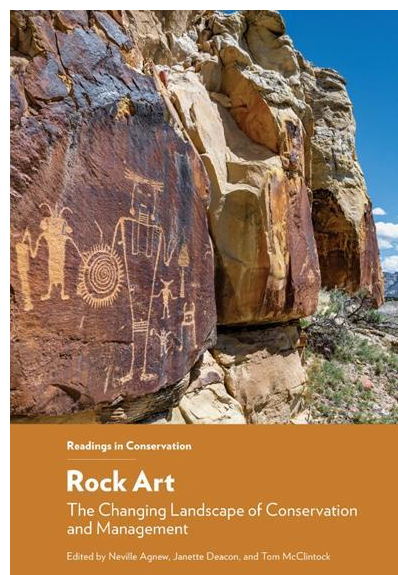
The symposium was jointly organized by the Getty Conservation Institute and the

Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, steward of the Villa Farnesina site.

PUBLICATIONS AND RESOURCES

Rock Art: The Changing Landscape of Conservation and Management

This richly illustrated volume is the first interdisciplinary anthology to focus on the conservation and management of rock art sites. Its 133 readings survey the arc of published writings on the subject, ranging from early academic theories and oral narratives of Traditional peoples to an abundant selection of recent scholarship covering current best practices and advances in portable instrumentation that can be used in the field.

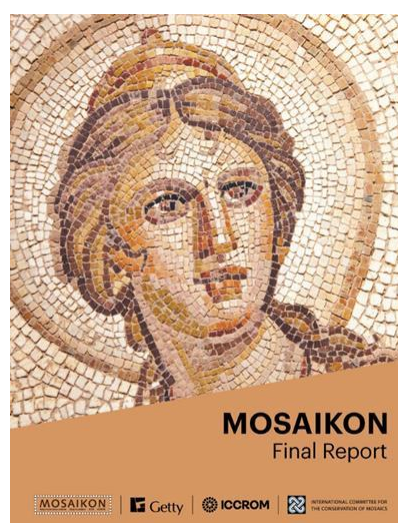


[Read details and purchase a copy](#)

MOSAIKON Final Report

This report summarizes MOSAIKON's numerous accomplishments and contributions to the field. It documents the transformative effect that MOSAIKON—through training, capacity building, research, model projects, publications, and support for the professional community—has had on the region.

It includes case studies from MOSAIKON's training and capacity-building efforts in Algeria, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, and Turkey and describes MOSAIKON's model



conservation project on the sustainable conservation of in situ mosaics at Bulla Regia. It identifies challenges, lessons learned, and future opportunities for the preservation of Mediterranean archaeological heritage, followed by appendices and a bibliography of publications, websites, videos, and didactic materials produced during MOSAIKON.

[Download the free PDF edition](#)

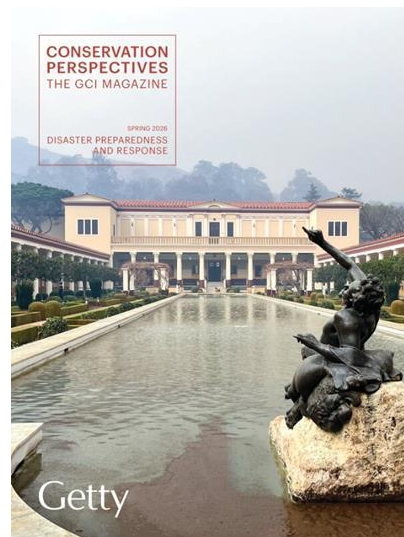
Conservation Perspectives Disaster Preparedness and Response Issue

How can cultural heritage institutions prepare for disasters in an age of growing environmental uncertainty?

In Los Angeles, we are all too familiar with the threat of earthquakes and, more recently, the devastation of wildfires. Those risks—and the challenges they pose to cultural heritage institutions worldwide—are the focus of the latest issue of *Conservation Perspectives* magazine.

Co-edited by Sanchita Balachandran, director of the Smithsonian's Museum Conservation Institute, and Tom Learner, head of Science at Getty Conservation Institute, this issue brings together experts from Getty, the Smithsonian, the Canadian Conservation Institute, and the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts.

Together, they explore how cultural heritage professionals are preparing for and responding to these threats, sharing lessons, challenges, and strategies for protecting people, buildings, and collections.



[Download the PDF edition](#)

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New in the Conservation Collection

Recent additions include books on emerging technologies in conservation, overviews of archaeological field practices, women in Renaissance art, adaptive reuse practices in architecture, perspectives on social work in museums, archaeology in Tuscany, and a history of regional lace practices.

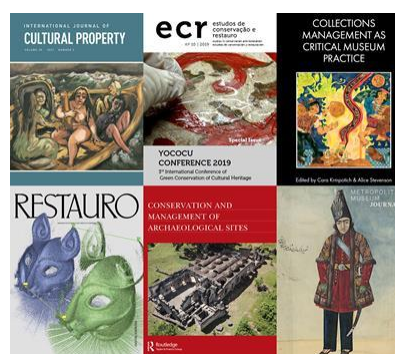
[Read the full list of new titles](#)



AATA Summer Update

The summer 2026 update includes abstracts on archaeological site conservation, graffiti removal, collections management, and retouching, and from the journal *Archaeomatica* and the blog of the Victoria and Albert Museum.

[View the update](#)



Getty Publications Summer Sale

Stock up on summer reading with 50% off selected Getty books. Discover acclaimed titles on Julia Margaret Cameron, the Sistine Chapel, Harald Szeemann, the ancient lands of Thrace, French tapestries, Paul Cézanne, modern metals, and much more.



[Shop the sale through August 30, 2026, while supplies last](#)

NEWS AND STORIES

Preserving Lacquer One Paper-Thin Layer at a Time

Artworks containing lacquer can be centuries old and require careful conservation. For over 25 years, Getty's work in this field has ranged from scientific analysis into the composition and condition of various forms of lacquer, to treating its own lacquered art using emerging techniques, to bringing together the world's leading lacquer experts—all to help keep the art and craft alive.

[Read the article](#)



Art Worth the Risk

Hans Memling's masterpiece has survived centuries of theft and war. Now, conservators are using cutting-edge science to keep it safe (and in one place) for centuries to come.

[Read the article](#)



Triptych of The Last Judgement, attributed to Hans Memling, Inv. number MNG/SD/413/M. © National Museum in Gdańsk

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Highlights of current initiatives and recent grants from the Getty Foundation.

Villa News

Exhibitions and events at the Getty Villa Museum that explore the cultures of the ancient Mediterranean.

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Mission Statement

The Getty Conservation Institute works internationally to advance conservation practice in the visual arts - broadly interpreted to include objects, collections, architecture, and sites. The Institute serves the conservation community through scientific research, education and training, field projects, and the dissemination of information. In all its endeavors, we create and deliver knowledge that contributes to the conservation of the world's cultural heritage.

About Conservation News

Conservation News is published six times a year with updates on our activities and timely information for conservation professionals.

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