



Artist Raymond Pettibon (left) painting a square with a pigment used in his reference drawing, while conservator Netanya Schiff (right) documents the Color Index code and manufacturer. All artwork © Raymond Pettibon. Photo: Lynda Bunting

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

SR2A 2025 | Synchrotron Radiation and Neutrons in Art and Archaeology International Conference

October 6–10, 2025
Getty Center, Los Angeles

Hosted by Stanford Synchrotron Radiation
Lightsource and GCI

**Early Bird Registration now open through
July 14, 2025**

This conference will offer a unique and highly stimulating environment for discussion and networking on the innovative use of synchrotron and neutron radiation to investigate cultural heritage materials and artifacts.

Emerging Professionals Seminar

This seminar is a community-building space for students (undergraduate to post-grad) and early-career professionals to share research, receive feedback, network, and explore collaborations.

Participation is free but space is limited. You must be registered for the SR2A Conference to attend this seminar.

[Register for the conference via the SR2A website](#)

[Learn more and indicate your interest in attending the Emerging Professionals Seminar](#)



PROJECT UPDATES

2025–2026 Conservation Guest Scholars Announced

We're pleased to welcome nine new residents in our Conservation Guest Scholars program beginning this fall.

The program, now in its twenty-sixth year, provides opportunities for established scholars as well as professionals who have attained distinction in the cultural heritage conservation field.

Recipients are in residence at the Conservation Institute for either a three-month or six-month term, 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.

[See the list of 2025–2026 scholars](#)

Applications for 2026–2027 residences will open in August.

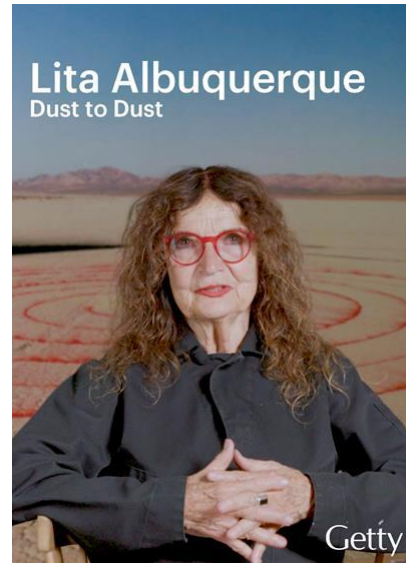


Lita Albuquerque: Dust to Dust

In the latest installment in our *Artist Dialogues* film series, Lita Albuquerque reflects on the arc of her creative practice—from her early childhood in Tunisia, to her role in the Light and Space movement in Los Angeles, to her ongoing fascination with the connection between Earth and the cosmos.

Albuquerque explores the meaning of conservation in relation to her ephemeral work, suggesting that preservation is not about fixing material form, but about honoring the spirit and intention behind the gesture.

In May, Ellen Moody, conservator of contemporary art, joined Albuquerque at the Getty Center for a screening of the film *Lita Albuquerque: Dust to Dust* (2025) and a discussion on the conservation of her work.



[Watch the film on YouTube](#)

[Watch the conversation on YouTube](#)

[Explore the entire *Artist Dialogues* series](#)

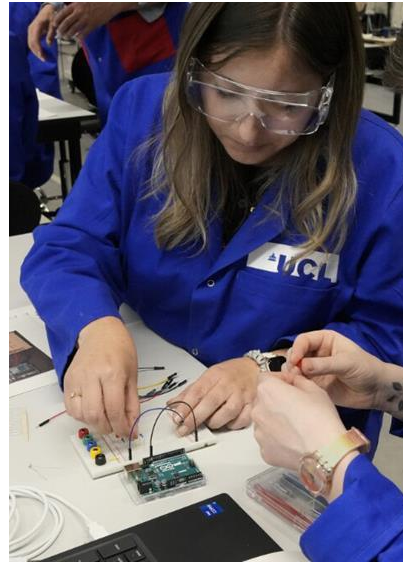
Movers and Shakers: Strategies for the Conservation of Kinetic Art

In May, we co-hosted a four-day workshop on conserving kinetic art with University College London's Conservation of Contemporary Art and Media Master of Science program and Tate. Thirteen students in this Master's program joined eighteen international participants to explore the challenges of preserving mechanically dynamic artworks.

Led by instructors Reinhard Bek, Dr. Pip Laurenson, Dr. Brian Castriota, Deborah Cane, Bill Castelo, Ben Barwise, and Tom Ensom, and coordinated by Flavia Perugini, conservator of modern and contemporary art at the GCI, the workshop combined presentations with hands-on exercises.

The workshop concluded with a visit to Tate's conservation department, where participants engaged with conservators and technical specialists.

[See photos and read more about the workshop on our Facebook page](#)



Participants in the 2025 workshop engaged in a practical session.



Managing Collection Environments

In April, we led two Managing Collection Environments Symposiums in the Philippines, with the first held at the National Museum of Anthropology in Manila (pictured) and the second at the Kabilin Center in Cebu City.

The program featured instruction from GCI environmental scientist Vincent Laudato Beltran on current thinking about the management of indoor climates for collections in museums, galleries, archives, and libraries, as well as the sharing of environmental case studies at the National Museum of the Philippines by Camille Calanno and the Lopez Museum and Library by Margarita Villanueva.

Event organizers included the National Museum of the Philippines, the Lopez Museum and Library, the Central Visayas Association of Museums, the Ramon Aboitiz Foundation, the Cebu City Government, and the Casa Gorordo Museum.

[See photos from the symposiums on our Facebook page](#)

[Learn more about our Managing Collection Environments Initiative](#)



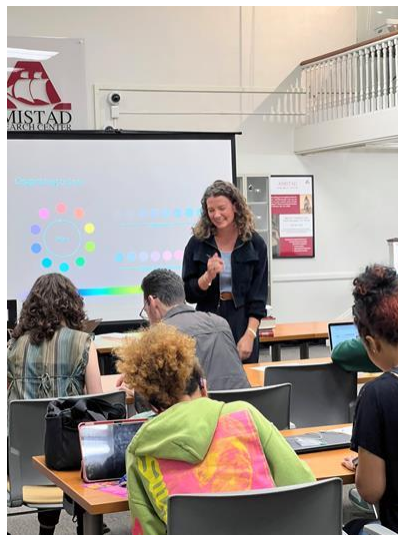
Photo: PPSD-National Museum of the Philippines

Exploring Color Perception Workshop

In April, we led the “Exploring Color Perception” workshop at the Amistad Research Center in New Orleans, hosted by chemist Dr. Ashley A. Freeman and color scientist Dr. Olivia Kuzio of the GCI. Workshop participants included students from local high schools and universities, as well as educators, scholars, and cultural leaders.

Kuzio shared her knowledge of color science, while Freeman demonstrated the innovative Microfading Tester, an analytical technique used to determine an object’s light sensitivity and a key tool in our preventive conservation efforts.

[See photos from the workshop on our Facebook page](#)



PUBLICATIONS AND RESOURCES

Conservation Perspectives: Art in Transit Issue

The spring issue of *Conservation Perspectives* examines what is involved in getting a painting or cultural object from point A to point B.

Art in transit is by nature interdisciplinary and collaborative, consisting of a diverse field of conservators, scientists, preparators, registrars, curators, insurance brokers, transport providers, airport and air-cargo personnel, and others.



Works of art and historical objects are transported for a variety of reasons—for research, conservation, exhibition loan, sale, or storage—but the stewardship for them, however brief that may be in the transit phase, is shared equally.

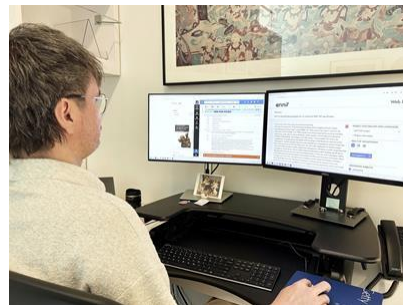
[Read the issue \(PDF\)](#)

AATA Online Implements Machine Learning

This month, AATA Online launched Annif, a machine learning tool that enhances indexing by suggesting terms based on over 90,000 previously indexed abstracts and 13,000 terms from the Getty Research Institute's Art and Architecture Thesaurus (AAT).

Annif will help streamline the indexing process and enable staff to assign more relevant terms at the time of record publication, improving search accuracy and discoverability for AATA Online users.

[Search AATA Online](#)

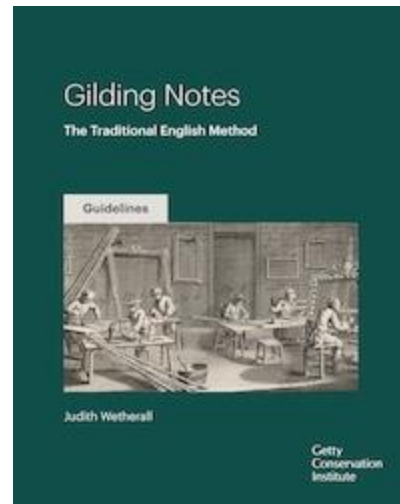


Gilding Notes: The Traditional English Method

These practical notes form an invaluable resource for students learning gilding techniques, practicing gilders, and conservators needing to better understand how the surfaces they treat were created and how they may have aged.

Though focused on English techniques, this publication brings a broad perspective to gilding methods and materials, and informs, inspires, and equips the reader to better understand, appreciate, and practice the precious art and science of gilding.

[Read the open-access publication online or download the free PDF edition](#)



Concrete: Case Studies in Conservation Practice

Now available for free in the Getty Virtual Library, this timely volume brings together fourteen case studies that address the challenges of conserving the twentieth century's most ubiquitous building material—concrete.

The projects selected represent a range of building typologies, uses, and sizes, as well as environmental and economic contexts. All follow a rigorous conservation approach, beginning with a process of investigation and diagnosis to identify causes and target repairs, balanced with conservation requirements to preserve significance.



[Read the open-access publication online or
download the free PDF edition](#)

New in the Conservation Collection

New to the Conservation Collection are books about caring for plastics, Dutch and Flemish paintings, historic gardens and landscapes, domestic Italian interiors, Caravaggio's paintings, Greek vases, Goa's architectural heritage, and portraits by Van Gogh.

[See the full list \(PDF\)](#)



Staff Bibliography

Throughout the year our staff present and publish the work of the Institute through conferences, workshops, articles, books, blogs, and videos.

[See the full list of our 2024-published work](#)



ON GETTY.EDU

Microfading Tester

Our latest video introduces the microfading tester (MFT)—a powerful tool that helps preserve the color of cultural heritage objects by measuring their sensitivity to light.

[Watch the video](#)

Interested in learning more about MFT practice? The American Institute for Conservation (AIC) sponsors a Microfading Tester International Discussion Group (MFT-IDG).

[Learn more about this discussion group on AIC's website](#)



A Paint Out

Getty recently acquired the archive of American artist Raymond Pettibon, who became known in the 1980s for his work in the Southern California music scene and later gained widespread recognition in the fine art world. The donation included a set of his paint tubes and ink jars now housed in our Materials Reference Collection.

To aid future conservation efforts, we recorded Pettibon's painting methods in real time during a paint out session—combining a paint out and informal interview. The hands-on format allowed us to gather observational information about Pettibon's working methods, his gestural movements, and the sequential steps he took to complete a reference painting.



All artwork © Raymond Pettibon. Photo: Lynda Bunting

[Read more](#)

RECENT EVENTS

Museum Conservation and the *Forensis* of Provenance

In this public lecture at the Getty Center in March, Paul Basu, professor of anthropology and curator at the Pitt Rivers Museum, University of Oxford, reimagined provenance research through case studies—shifting focus from object origins and chains of ownership to a relational process that brings together a community of stakeholders and perspectives.

It was followed by a panel discussion with Erica Jones, Senior Curator of African Arts and Manager of Curatorial Affairs at the Fowler Museum at UCLA, and Glenn Wharton, Professor of Art History and Conservation of Material Culture, Chair of the UCLA/Getty Interdepartmental Program in the Conservation of Cultural Heritage. The panel discussion was moderated by GCI archaeologist and archaeological conservator Dr. Ana Pastor Perez.



[Watch on YouTube](#)

Inaugural Meeting of the Los Angeles Media Art & Archives

Earlier this month, the Los Angeles Media Art & Archives (LAMAA) held its inaugural meeting at the Getty Center. The event featured a welcome and overview of LAMAA's goals, followed by lightning-style presentations from local professionals and networking opportunities with colleagues across initiatives.

LAMAA is a new professional association dedicated to connecting individuals and organizations engaged with media art and archives, preservation, and related disciplines across Greater Los Angeles.

To join LAMAA or for any questions, please email lamaa.network@gmail.com.



EVENTS & EXHIBITIONS

Wired for Wonder: A Multisensory Maze

February 15 to August 31, 2025
Kidspace Children's Museum, Pasadena

Human perception is more than the sum of sensory input; it's a complex response woven from sensory integration, life experiences, and social interactions in real time. Unravelling how we perceive complex and immersive works of art is also necessary to develop appropriate conservation strategies.

Wired for Wonder invites participants of all ages to become both artist and observer,



scientist and subject, unlocking the building blocks of meaning-making and perception while navigating a complex physical structure that harnesses color, light, movement, texture, vibration, and smell to interrogate and shift sensory experience.

Wired for Wonder is presented in conjunction with Getty's PST ART: Art & Science Collide.

[Learn more about the exhibition and reserve your ticket on the Kidspace website](#)

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Updates on activities of the Getty Conservation Institute and timely information for conservation professionals.

Foundation News

Highlights of current initiatives and

Publication News

New books from Getty Publications.

Research News

Latest resources from the Getty Research Institute, such as publications, lecture series, and digitized collections.

Villa News

Exhibitions and events at the Getty Villa

recent grants from the Getty
Foundation.

Museum that explore the cultures of
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GCI Mission Statement

The Getty Conservation Institute (GCI) 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, the GCI creates and delivers knowledge that contributes to the conservation of the world's cultural heritage.

About Conservation News

Conservation News is published electronically six times a year with updates on activities of the Getty Conservation Institute and timely information for conservation professionals.



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