



During a two-day workshop on risk assessment and preventive conservation, researchers and curators took a closer look at Hans Memling's renowned triptych *The Last Judgement*. Photo courtesy of National Museum in Gdańsk, Poland

### ANNOUNCEMENT

#### Tim Whalen to Retire as Director

After thoughtful consideration, Tim Whalen has decided to retire from the directorship of the Getty Conservation Institute. He will remain director of the GCI until his successor is in place.

Tim is proud to have led for more than 25 years, the GCI's talented staff whose expertise, innovation, and unflagging dedication have made the GCI a global leader in heritage conservation, contributing to humanity's collective goal of protecting and preserving the world's cultural heritage. He expresses his gratitude to the professionals around the world with whom it has been his pleasure to work alongside during his tenure and to the wonderful colleagues who came before him.



The international search to identify the next John E. and Louise Bryson Director of the GCI will be launched in early 2026 to assure the

continued excellence and impact of the GCI’s work.

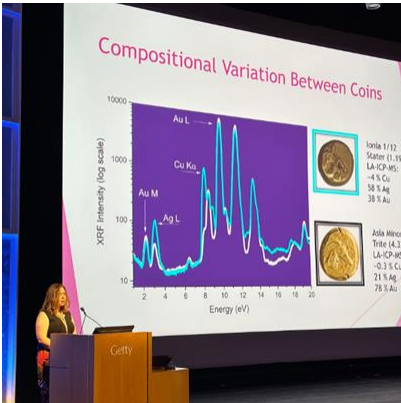
Alongside his directorship, Tim has taken on an additional role at Getty, as Vice President of Institutional Planning, in which he will guide development of Gettywide projects that advance and improve the experience of both visitors and staff at the Getty Center. He will continue in this role after he departs the Conservation Institute.

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## PROJECT UPDATES

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

Earlier this month, we hosted the 2025 Synchrotron Radiation and Neutrons in Art and Archaeology conference at the Getty Center in collaboration with the Stanford Synchrotron Radiation Lightsource.



The event featured discussions on technical advancements and innovative applications of synchrotron and neutron techniques in cultural heritage research, covering topics from instrumentation and analytical methods to case studies that demonstrate how these tools are transforming conservation science.

The week kicked off with the inaugural SR2A Emerging Professionals Seminar, where early-career researchers shared their work through lightning talks and speed mentoring. Participants also toured our newly renovated science labs and Getty’s conservation studios, followed by site visits to UCLA, LACMA, and the Academy Museum.

We hosted a post-conference workshop on the principles of XRF microanalysis, led by Sam Webb from Stanford. The session featured hands-on examples using the MicroAnalysis Toolkit.

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## **Cleaning of Gilded Wood Workshop 2025: Brazil**

In August, the Conservation Institute, in collaboration with the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (UFMG), presented our five-day Cleaning of Gilded Wood Workshop, offered for the first time in Brazil.



The workshop welcomed 24 professionals from across Latin America, Portugal and Macau, who explored cleaning systems developed for water-sensitive gilded surfaces. Starting in the conservation labs of the university, participants learned to prepare and use a range of cleaning formulations, such as flexible polysaccharide gels and PVOH-borax gels.

They also gained practice in the assessment of surfaces' nature and condition, on-site, at the 18th-century Igreja Matriz de Nossa Senhora da Conceição in Catas Altas, Minas Gerais. The final day focused on advocacy and community engagement, with meaningful dialogue between conservators, local stakeholders, and organizations working to preserve the church's historic interiors.

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

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## **Seismic Retrofitting Project**

As part of the Conservation Institute's Seismic Retrofitting Project in Peru, we recently partnered with nine conservators from the Dirección Desconcentrada de Cultura de Cusco (Ministerio de Cultura Cusco) and the Arzobispado del Cusco to conduct earthen grouting tests at the historic Church of Rondocan.



These tests aim to preserve in situ the church's remarkable 17th-century mural paintings using injectable earth-based mixtures. This technique addresses localized detachment without removing the artwork, ensuring the murals remain in their original architectural and cultural context.

[Learn more about our work in Peru](#)

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## Risk Assessment and Preventive Conservation Workshop in Gdańsk

Conservators, curators, heritage scientists, and students gathered for a two-day workshop, hosted in collaboration with the National Museum in Gdańsk and the Jerzy Haber Institute of Catalysis and Surface Chemistry, Polish Academy of Sciences, on risk assessment and preventive conservation, centered on Hans Memling’s renowned triptych *The Last Judgement* at the National Museum in Gdańsk, Poland.



Photo courtesy of National Museum in Gdańsk, Poland

Participants took part in lectures, object-based demos including DSPI and Hirox 3D microscopy, and hands-on exercises. Group discussions during a wrap-up session highlighted priorities for future risk management and collaborative planning for the triptych’s long-term preservation.

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

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## MEGA-Jordan to Migrate to Arches

The Conservation Institute is partnering with the University of Oxford and the Department of Antiquities of Jordan to help migrate Jordan’s national archaeological inventory into the Arches platform—bringing over 15,000 site records into a modern, sustainable, linked data environment.

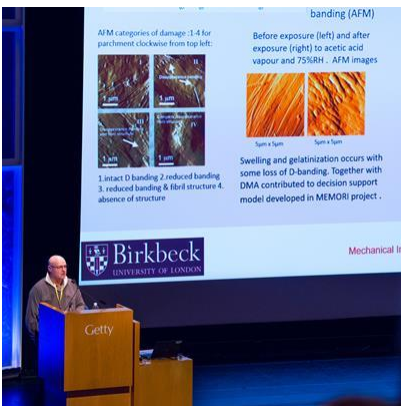


[Learn more about this work](#)

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## Mechanical Insights Symposium Session Recordings Now Available

Hosted in November 2024 at the Getty Center, the Conservation Institute’s Mechanical Insights: Shaping the Future of Museum Collection Preservation Symposium brought together an international group of experts in the mechanical characterization and preservation of museum collections.



Talks and presentations covered laboratory testing of historical and mock-up samples, risk analysis of objects under external loads and unstable climates, and validation of predictive models. They also highlighted emerging technologies for mechanical testing and analysis of cultural heritage materials, data-based tools for predicting physical changes in art objects, and knowledge-based strategies for environmental management.

[Watch the recordings and explore the full program](#)

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### Historic-Cultural Monuments Plaque Unveiling

In August, Los Angeles's 10th City Council district hosted plaque revealing ceremonies for three of six recent sites designated as Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monuments. The designations are the result of the ongoing work of the African American Historic Places, Los Angeles project launched by the City of Los Angeles' Office of Historic Resources and Getty in 2022 to identify, protect, and celebrate the city's Black heritage.



The recognized sites included the Tom & Ethel Bradley Residence, the home of Los Angeles' first Black mayor; St. Elmo Village, a vibrant arts collective that has nurtured creativity and community for decades; and Jewel's Catch One, a historic LGBTQ+ disco club.

[Read more about AAHPLA's work in the LA Times](#)

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### PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

#### Application Open for Postdoctoral Fellowship in Conservation Science

Recent PhD graduates in chemistry, physical sciences, or materials science are invited to apply for a two-year fellowship focused on conservation science.



The 2026-2028 Postdoctoral Fellow will be an integral part of our Science department's Materials Characterization research group studying the diverse range of organic materials in cultural heritage.

[Learn more about the fellowship and apply](#)

Deadline to apply is December 1, 2025.

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**Application Open for Graduate Internship Program**

Graduate Internships are offered in the four programs of the J. Paul Getty Trust—the Getty Museum, the Getty Conservation Institute, the Getty Research Institute, and the Getty Foundation—and in Getty Publications and Getty Digital.



Placements are typically available in areas such as curatorial, education, conservation, research, publications, web and new media, public programs, digital projects, and grantmaking.

[Learn more about the program and see examples of previous internship opportunities](#)

Deadline to apply is November 4, 2025.

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**Application Open for Post-Baccalaureate Conservation Internship Program**

Getty Post-Baccalaureate Conservation Internships aim to diversify the conservation field by increasing the number of students from underrepresented backgrounds enrolled in graduate degree programs related to museum conservation.



These 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.

[Learn more about the program](#)

Deadline to apply is November 4, 2025.

SAVE THE DATE

Conservation Strategies for Painted Outdoor Sculpture

April 27–May 1, 2026  
National Gallery Victoria, Melbourne

The Getty Conservation Institute, in partnership with the National Gallery of Victoria, is offering a workshop focused on the conservation of painted outdoor sculpture. Taking place in Melbourne, this five-day course is designed for conservation professionals at all levels and will provide both theoretical foundations and targeted hands-on experience to support the development of effective treatment strategies.

Application will be available by the end of October. Visit the [Conservation Institute landing page](#) for updates.

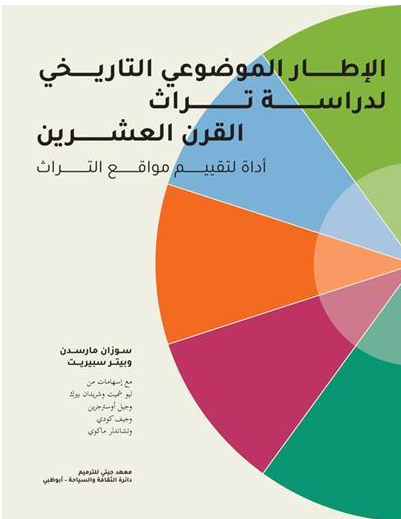


PUBLICATIONS AND RESOURCES

Arabic Adaptation Now Available: The Twentieth-Century Historic Thematic Framework: A Tool for Assessing Heritage Places

*The Twentieth-Century Historic Thematic Framework: A Tool for Assessing Heritage Places* promotes broad thinking about the historical processes that have contributed to the twentieth-century built environment worldwide.

Although globally structured, this framework can be used locally to survey and assess places within the context of the twentieth century and to conduct comparative analyses of places. It can be utilized and adapted by anyone involved in heritage conservation around the world and is now available in



Arabic, in addition to English, French, and Spanish editions.

[Download the free PDF edition](#)

### AATA Fall Update

The fall 2025 update includes abstracts on earthen architecture, concrete pavements and floors, the retouching of cultural heritage, historical wooden structures, stone, and from the North American Textile Conservation Conference.



[Search AATA](#)

### New in the Conservation Collection

New to the [Conservation Collection](#) are books about conservation history (focusing on textiles and architecture), Indian handicraft, urban renewal, cultural heritage conservation in early 20th century Spain, climate change issues in conservation, nautical archaeology, and Spanish ceramics.

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



### EVENT

#### Rodney McMillian: Film Screening and Conversation with the Artist

October 29, 2025, at 5:00 pm  
Hybrid Event: Getty Center and Online

Rodney McMillian is the subject of the latest film in our [Artist Dialogues](#) series, which engages L.A. artists in conversations exploring their art, materials, fabrication processes and working methods, as well as their thoughts on conservation.



Detail of *untitled* (pink afghan), 2019, Rodney McMillian.  
Courtesy of the artist and Veilmetter Los Angeles. Photo: Dawn Blackman

Following the screening, McMillian will be joined in conversation by independent curator jill moniz, to explore a wide range of topics including how the concept of “unmaking” can be interpreted in display and long-term preservation.

[Learn more and register to attend in person or online](#)

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## ON GETTY.EDU

### Hidden in Plain Sight

Architect Tahlor Cleveland and public historian Lauren O’Brien, two recent Getty Graduate Interns, helped to honor and preserve Los Angeles’s Black heritage as part of their year spent with the Getty Conservation Institute’s African American Historic Places, Los Angeles, project.

“It’s been amazing to explore how to preserve the identity of a place,” Tahlor says. “This internship gave me the time and resources to see what others are doing in the field.”

[Read the story](#)



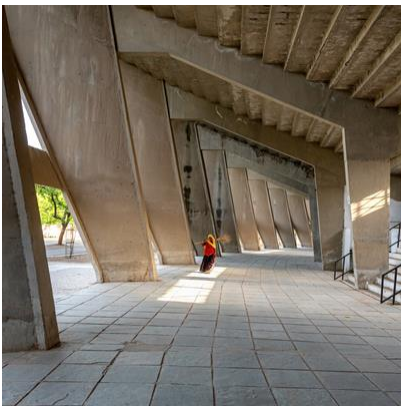
Outside New Bethel Baptist Church before Virgil Lee Williams’ 1987 funeral, a woman holds a sign referencing the Equal Rights Congress. Photo: Chris Gulker, Herald Examiner Collection/Los Angeles Public Library

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### Honoring India’s Modern Heritage

Earlier this year in Ahmedabad, architects, conservators, and scholars from across the Indian subcontinent gathered under the bold concrete canopy of the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (SVP) Stadium to explore its design firsthand.

The visit was part of a new course—Modern Architecture Conservation in India—developed by the Getty Conservation Institute in partnership with INTACH’s Heritage Academy. Through lectures, hands-on exercises, and site visits to modern landmarks like SVP Stadium, the course delivered specialized knowledge and technical skills that had long been out of reach for regional conservation professionals.



[Read the story](#)

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**What Goes on Inside Getty’s Vaults?**

Franziska Bunse, a trained paintings conservator specializing in preventive conservation, completed a year-long Getty Graduate Internship at the Getty Conservation Institute. During her tenure, she collaborated with the Getty Research Institute to document historic photographs and evaluate sustainable storage solutions.



“Through this internship I’ve had the opportunity to delve further into sustainability in conservation and heritage science. It’s a topic that is close to my heart, and I want to continue focusing on that wherever I go,” she says.

[Read the story](#)

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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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