



Hochhauser Auditorium, Victoria and Albert Museum, SW7 2RL

Monday 17 February 2020

Between Science and Art: investigating, understanding and protecting our cultural heritage

Join us at the Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A) for an afternoon with heritage scientists who work at the frontier of science and art, examining, analysing and preserving museum objects for future generations.

As part of the work championed by the Royal Society of Chemistry's Heritage Science Expert Working Group, Dr Lucia Burgio, Senior Scientist at the V&A, will give the 2019 LS Theobald Lecture, exploring a range of scientific investigations that take place at the V&A and revealing some of the most recent scientific discoveries about our collections. Presentations by a number of other heritage scientists will discuss environmental monitoring, the use of scientific methods in identifying artists' materials and dating porcelain, and some of the challenges involved in preserving modern materials such as plastics.

Organised in collaboration between the V&A Research Institute and the Royal Society of Chemistry's Analytical Methods Committee and the Analytical Methods Trust

14:00 Welcome: Joanna Norman, Director of the V&A Research Institute, V&A

14:05 Introduction: Colin Creaser, Chair of the RSC Analytical Methods Committee

Session 1 (Chair: Joanna Norman)

14:15 Theobald Lecture: Dr Lucia Burgio, Senior Scientist, V&A and L S Theobald Lecturer 2019
What exactly does a Museum scientist do?

14:50 Presentation of the LS Theobald Lectureship award (Professor Jim Miller, Chair of the Analytical Methods Trust)

14:55 Speaker 2: Dr Kelly Domoney, Conservation Manager, Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology, Oxford
Dating European porcelain using portable X-ray fluorescence (XRF)

15:20 Tea and coffee

Session 2 (Chair: Colin Creaser)

15:45 Speaker 3: Dr Brenda Keneghan, Senior Polymer Scientist, V&A
Plastic not so fantastic

16:10 Speaker 4: Dr Paola Ricciardi, Senior Research Scientist, Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge
Shedding (infrared) light on artists' materials: near-infrared spectroscopy at the Museum

16:35 Speaker 5: Dr Scott Orr, Lecturer in Heritage Data Science, UCL Institute for Sustainable Heritage
Understanding indoor and outdoor climate for cultural heritage collections

17:00 Closing remarks: Colin Creaser, Chair of the RSC Analytical Methods Committee.