

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

Monday 17 February 2019, 2.00 – 5.30 pm

Hochhauser Auditorium, Victoria and Albert Museum, SW7
2RL



Join us 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: Professor Jim Miller, Chair of the Analytical Methods Trust**

Session 1

Chair: Professor Jim Miller

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

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

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

15:20 **Tea and coffee**

Session 2

Chair: Joanna Norman

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

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

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

17:00 **Closing remarks**
Joanna Norman, *Director of the V&A Research Institute, V&A*