

Special Issue

The Stories That Colours Tell: Historical Paintings, Dyes and Varnishes

Message from the Guest Editors

Pigments, dyes and varnishes tell many stories. Some pigments were only used for rich clients, artists were unable to give others up despite their toxicity, and others required long manufacturing and purification processes. Sometimes, the artist himself prepared them or some workshop people helped to ground them, although not too much to lose the coloring strength. The skilful use of colors has made it possible to create the works that we can admire today in museums and on the street, thanks to graffiti art. Often the paintings were covered with layers of varnish, obtained from the processing of terpene resins which served to protect the paintings. But today resins are also found inside ancient ceramic vases used as waterproofing or to give a particular fragrance to wine. To tell these stories, it is necessary to recognize these materials within the works which can be obtained through non-invasive and invasive investigations. XRF and multispectral imaging analysis may be followed by Raman spectroscopy, SERS, FTIR, SEM-EDS and HPLC techniques are only some examples of investigations which can allow us to recognize them within the paintings.

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Heritage is an international, peer-reviewed, open access journal that focuses on knowledge, conservation, interpretation and management of cultural and natural heritage, by presenting and enabling novelty and advances in sensing technologies, novel methods, best practices and policies. *Heritage* has the ambition to become a “cultural forum”, where scientists and experts offer answers to significant issues affecting cultural and natural heritage, by creating a knowledge bridge between different technological and social disciplines. *Heritage* has an Editorial Board of eminent international leaders and this ensures rigorous peer-review processing for high quality and novel papers. We strongly recommend *Heritage* for the rapid and professional publication of your innovative research and case studies.

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