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Stimulating Reflection when Using Artworks from the Collection

DIAL for Complex Artworks

Stigter, S.

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SBMK day & SBMK Summit on (inter)national collaboration

Acting in Contemporary
Art Conservation

WEDNESDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2018

THURSDAY 15 - FRIDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2018

SBMK



UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM

Conservation and restoration
of cultural heritage



Cultural Heritage Agency
Ministry of Education, Culture and Science

contents

SBMK day & SBMK Summit	4
programme SBMK day	8
abstracts SBMK day	10
programme SBMK Summit - first day, thursday	24
abstracts Summit - first day, thursday	
SESSION 1 – DECISION MAKING	28
POSTER PITCHES PART 1	31
SESSION 2 – DIFFERENT ROLES OF STAKE HOLDERS	36
POSTER PITCHES PART 2	39
BREAKOUT SESSIONS	43
SESSION 3 – ORAL HISTORY	59
programme SBMK Summit - second day, friday	64
abstracts SBMK Summit - second day, friday	
SESSION 4 – ARTIST PARTICIPATION I	68
POSTER PITCHES PART 3	71
SESSION 5 – ARTIST PARTICIPATION II	75
POSTER PITCHES PART 4	80
SESSION 6 – THE FUTURE	84
POSTER PITCHES PART 5	85
SESSION 7 – DECISION MAKING MODELS	89
participants list	94
notes	116

SBMK day & SBMK Summit on (inter)national collaboration

Acting in Contemporary Art Conservation

WEDNESDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2018 &
THURSDAY 15 - FRIDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2018

BACKGROUND

The Dutch Foundation for the Conservation of Contemporary Art | SBMK was formed to manage the international project *Modern Art: Who Cares* (1995-1997). One of the results of this project was the foundation of the International Network for the Conservation of Contemporary Art | INCCA. Since the start of INCCA in 1999, many conservation related research projects have been carried out through international collaboration and the results shared through the INCCA website. SBMK continued to initiate projects, such as *Inside Installations* (2004 - 2007), *Artist Interviews* (1998 - 2004), and the international symposium *Contemporary Art: Who Cares?* (2010). SBMK has taken the initiative to organise a new international symposium reflecting this background and to inspire future collaborations: *Acting in Contemporary Art Conservation* on 15 - 16 November 2018 in the Netherlands. The aim is to create a lively event where you can meet your peers, share current research and initiate new projects.

MUSEUM PRACTICES

One of the general outcomes of the research projects so far, has been a thorough understanding of the influence that conservation treatments and museum practices have on the future existence of contemporary artworks. Museum professionals and the audience are often actively engaged in contemporary art, sometimes becoming participants in the creative process, which poses challenging questions to the preservation of such artworks. These developments create new challenges for museum professionals and ask for specialist expertise, as they are in fact all acting in contemporary art conservation.

SBMK DAY

Topic of the English spoken SBMK day 2018 is 'Plastics'. This one day symposium will take place just prior to the event on 14 November 2018 in Utrecht (Centraal Museum). One of the topics is the Dutch project on identifications of plastics outside the lab. There will be presentations of several conservation projects of different kind of plastics from all over Europe. International renowned artist Folkert de Jong is keynote speaker, as plastics are his favourite material to work with.

SUMMIT

The Summit committee received over an hundred proposals from all over the world.

The chosen themes are:

- decision making
- artist participation-
- oral history and roles and
- stake holders in conservation.

The programme exists of 20 plenary presentations, 21 poster presentations and 4 break-out sessions. Locations are Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands in Amersfoort (first day) and Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam (second day).



SBMK Summit on (inter)national collaboration

Acting in Contemporary
Art Conservation

THURSDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2018

CULTURAL HERITAGE AGENCY OF

THE NETHERLANDS

SMALLEPAD 5, AMERSFOORT

programme - first day

SBMK Summit on (inter)national collaboration

Acting in Contemporary Art Conservation

THURSDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2018

CULTURAL HERITAGE AGENCY OF THE NETHERLANDS

08:30 – 09:30 ARRIVALS AND REGISTRATION

09:30 – 09:45 **Welcome and Opening**, Susan Lammers

SESSION 1 – DECISION MAKING

MODERATOR Paulien 't Hoen

09:45 – 10:05 **From the artist's intentionality to the 'effect' of the work: observe, describe and quantify the qualitative perception**, Muriel Verbeeck

10:05 – 10:25 **Doing ethics in conservation practice: an example from the SBMK**, Renée van de Vall

10:25 – 10:45 **Museum participation in conservation treatment shown in three installations by Joseph Beuys**, Carolin Bohlmann, Eva Riess & Ina Hausmann

10:45 – 11:00 **PLENARY DISCUSSION**

11:00 – 11:15 **POSTER PITCHES PART 1** (three minutes each)

- **Public engagement and conservation in an open-air museum**, Veerle Meul & Flavia Parisi
- **Implications of Different Conservation Strategies on Socially Engaged Artworks**, Hedwig Braam
- **Transcending Today's Technology**, Zeeyoung Chin & Nani Lew
- **The Inside of Technology-Based Artworks**, Alice Watkins
- **The INCCA mentoring programme: connecting and growing together**, Tom Learner

11:15 – 11:45 COFFEE BREAK & POSTER PRESENTATIONS

SESSION 2 – DIFFERENT ROLES OF STAKE HOLDERS

MODERATOR Pip Laurenson

11:45 – 12:05 **How actions come to matter**, Hélia Marçal

12:05 – 12:25 **Please do it again!**, Simone Miller

12:25 – 12:45 **Creating Collaborative Conservation Cultures to care for Time-based Media Collections**, Joanna Phillips

12:45 – 13:00 **PLENARY DISCUSSION**

13:00 – 13:15 **POSTER PITCHES PART 2** (three minutes each)

— **Seeing the Light: Characterizing a Monitor Light Installation**,
Claire Molgat Laurin

— **The Importance of the Artist’s Participation in the ‘Revitalisation’ of Site-Specific Installations**, Mirta Pavić

— **3D Documentation, a case study of Pino Pascali’s artwork**,
Gaia Fagiolo

— **Of Art and Men: The Conservator as Story Collector**,
Sagita Mirjam Sunara

13:15 – 14:15 **LUNCH & POSTER PRESENTATIONS, DEMONSTRATION OF THE PLASTIC IDENTIFICATION TOOL AND SPEEDDATES OF THE INCCA MENTOR PROJECT**

14:15 – 16:00 **BREAKOUT SESSIONS A, B, C and D**

BREAKOUT SESSION A

ROLES IN DECISION MAKING

short presentation and workshop

— **Conflict, negotiation and leadership in contemporary art conservation decision-making**, Rita Macedo

— **Applying Advanced Methods of Reflective Practice in Decision-Making**, Anna Schäffler

Followed by an interactive discussion

BREAKOUT SESSION B

TIME BASED ART

short presentations

- **Digital art preservation for and by artists**, Gaby Wijers
- **Collaborative archiving of digital art**, Annet Dekker
- **Performing artworks: embodied practice and knowledge**,
Jo Ana Morfin
- **Installation Art on the Map!**, Sylvia van Schaik

Followed by an interactive discussion

BREAKOUT SESSION C

TOOLS; THREE DEMONSTRATIONS

several demonstrations

- **Decision making during preservation and restoration of film and video art works**, Ramon Coelho
- **VR Simulation of David Hall's *TV Interruptions: The Installation (1971/2006)***, Adam Lockhart
- **BiNoP – Biographical Notation System for Performance Art**,
Melissa Köhler

BREAKOUT SESSION D

RISKS AND DECISIONS IN CONTEMPORARY ART

short presentations

- **Art in a Cage?**, Irene Glanzer
- **Hidden in Plain Sight: Decision making processes around the management of hazards within contemporary art collections**, Deborah Cane & Louise Lawson
- **The dissociation factor applied to the preventive conservation of contemporary art collections**,
Alice Nogueira Alves

Followed by an interactive discussion about a casestudy

16:00 – 16:30 TEA BREAK AND POSTER PRESENTATIONS

SESSION 3 – ORAL HISTORY

MODERATOR Sanneke Stigter

16:30 – 16:50 **Beyond the Artist Interview: Notes from the Field,**
Aga Wielocha

16:50 – 17:10 **Deterioration, a concept we should revisit,**
Ruth del Fresno-Guillem

17:10 – 17:30 **PLENARY DISCUSSION**

17:30 – 19:00 **DRINKS**



SBMK Summit on (inter)national collaboration

Acting in Contemporary
Art Conservation

FRIDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2018

STEDELIJK MUSEUM AMSTERDAM

MUSEUMPLEIN 10, AMSTERDAM

programme – second day

SBMK Summit on (inter)national collaboration

Acting in Contemporary Art Conservation

FRIDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2018

STEDELIJK MUSEUM AMSTERDAM

08:30 – 09:25 ARRIVALS AND REGISTRATION

09:25 – 09:30 **Welcome**, Paulien 't Hoen

SESSION 4 – ARTIST PARTICIPATION I

MODERATOR Sanneke Stigter

09:30 – 09:50 **Richard Deacon's *Never Mind* (1993) refabricated in 2017 at the Middelheim museum: close and long-term working relationships**, Veerle Meul

09:50 – 10:10 **Undocumented performance and dance practices**, Francesca Verga

10:10 – 10:30 **Stewarding voices: negotiating the '(re-)interview'**, Rebecca Gordon

10:30 – 10:45 **PLENARY DISCUSSION**

10:45 – 11:00 **POSTER PITCHES PART 3** (three minutes each)

- **Detachment in contemporary murals. Controversy and possibilities of an obsolete technique**, Rita L. Amor Garcia
- **The Artist's Interview: the perfect tool for preventive conservation with Urban Art and emerging artists**, Rita L. Amor Garcia & Ruth del Fresno-Guillem
- **Faradayurt by Jana Sterbak. Preserving a material of the future**, Simona Brunetti
- **The restoration of the contemporary multi-material artwork *Sans Titre* made by Paul Van Hoeydonck**, Valeria de Angelis

11:00 – 11:30 COFFEE BREAK AND POSTER PRESENTATIONS

SESSION 5 – ARTIST PARTICIPATION II

MODERATOR Paulien 't Hoen

11:30 – 12:45 **SHORT PRESENTATIONS** (ten minutes each)

- **It's Alive!**, Sherry Phillips & Sjoukje van der Laan
 - **Decision Making: The Artist's Body in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction**, Barbara Dettl
 - **A Posthumous Collaboration**, Joep Vosseveld & Paula van den Bosch
 - **The artist as conservator**, Laura Wolfkamp
 - **The artist as conservator**, Stephanie de Roemer & Christine Borland
- plenary discussion

12:45 – 13:00 **POSTER PITCHES PART 4** (three minutes each)

- **Democracy of Materials**, Johanna Hoffmann
- **The long route to a 'new' work by Tom Claassen**, Susanne Kensche
- **Primarily speaking, kept in translation**, Tjerk Busstra
- **Artist participation and intentional destruction of photographic prints**, Monica Marchesi

13:00 – 14:00 LUNCH AND POSTER PRESENTATIONS

SESSION 6 – THE FUTURE

MODERATORS Maarten van Bommel & Paulien 't Hoen

14:00 – 14:45 **PLENARY DISCUSSION** **History and future of the summit and the international network**

14:45 – 15:00 **POSTER PITCHES PART 5** (three minutes each)

- **The Evaporation of Fragrance**, Sarah Jahns
- **Here and there – then and now**, Mareike Opeña
- **Memory and decision-making in contemporary art conservation**, Sofia Gomes & Rita Macedo
- **Reshaping the Collectible: When Artworks Live in the Museum**, Pip Laurenson

15:00 – 15:30 TEA BREAK AND POSTER PRESENTATIONS

SESSION 7 – DECISION MAKING MODELS

MODERATOR Tatja Scholte

15:30 – 15:50 **Stimulating Reflection when Using Artworks from the Collection: DIAL for Complex Artworks,**
Sanneke Stigter

15:50 – 16:10 **Revisiting the Decision-Making Model,** Julia Giebeler &
Andrea Sartorius

16:10 – 16:30 **Beauty inside and out, a role for aesthetics in the conservation of contemporary art,** Lydia Beerkens

16:30 – 16:45 **PLENARY DISCUSSION**

16:45 **CLOSURE**

Stimulating Reflection when Using Artworks from the Collection: DIAL for Complex Artworks

SANNEKE STIGTER, University of Amsterdam

The project is a collaboration between the University of Amsterdam, Kröller-Müller Museum and Wiel's Simple Solutions, funded by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research | NWO within the Creative Industry – KIEM programme.

This contribution discusses the results of the research project *DIAL for Complex Artworks: A Digital Index of an Artwork's Life*, which involved the development of a database application for museum professionals to assist them in becoming more aware of their influence on the way artworks are presented. Starting from the view that, in addition to conservation treatments and exhibition, the influence on the life of an artwork begins with interpreting the work, compiling documentation, and making inventory photographs, the project included various professionals who work with collections.

Seeking to engage museum professionals with an autoethnographic approach, the DIAL app has been designed to promote reflexivity. It does so by enquiring about the artwork's 'behaviour' according to the Variable Media Approach. The practitioner sets a sliding indicator along a scale from a passive ('contained') to an active ('performed') character. The user is invited to consider each display moment as this rating is not considered fixed, but rather an interpretation, which can change over time and differ between users.

Having to plot the artwork's character based on past, present and possible future presentations, increases accountability and stimulates the investigative mind of the museum professional. There is not one truth about an artwork, which the application further emphasizes by making visible the viewpoints of previous users. This way the DIAL app integrates the dynamics in the workplace into the collection management system. The project has shown that the awareness of managing contemporary artworks is deepened by DIAL in a critical, transparent and respectful way.

colophon

Summit Committee

MAARTEN VAN BOMMEL, University of Amsterdam | UvA

SUSANNE KENSCHKE, Kröller-Müller Museum

PAULIEN 'T HOEN, Foundation for the Conservation of Contemporary Art | SBMK

TATJA SCHOLTE, Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands | RCE

SANNEKE STIGTER, University of Amsterdam | UvA

GABY WIJERS, LIMA

Programme booklet

ARIËNNE BOELENS, Ariënné Boelens office

PAULIEN 'T HOEN, Foundation for the Conservation of Contemporary Art | SBMK

TATJA SCHOLTE, Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands | RCE