Using Photogrammetry in Outdoor Sculpture Conservation

Assessing Jean Dubuffet’s Jardin d’email

Watkins, A.S.; Stigter, S.; Waagen, Jitte; Kensche, Susanne; Lanjouw, Tijm

Link to publication

Creative Commons License (see https://creativecommons.org/use-remix/cc-licenses):
CC BY-NC-SA

Citation for published version (APA):

General rights
It is not permitted to download or to forward/distribute the text or part of it without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), other than for strictly personal, individual use, unless the work is under an open content license (like Creative Commons).

Disclaimer/Complaints regulations
If you believe that digital publication of certain material infringes any of your rights or (privacy) interests, please let the Library know, stating your reasons. In case of a legitimate complaint, the Library will make the material inaccessible and/or remove it from the website. Please Ask the Library: https://uba.uva.nl/en/contact, or a letter to: Library of the University of Amsterdam, Secretariat, Singel 425, 1012 WP Amsterdam, The Netherlands. You will be contacted as soon as possible.
New Perspectives: Contemporary Conservation Thinking and Practice

Belfast
11-14 June 2019
Using Photogrammetry in Outdoor Sculpture Conservation: Assessing Jean Dubuffet’s Jardin d’email

Alice Watkins
Co-authors: Sanneke Stigter, Susanne Kensche, Jitte Waagen, Tijm Lanjouw

This research evaluates the use of innovative imaging technologies, photogrammetry and image-based 3D modelling, to aid the conservation of the large-scale contemporary outdoor sculpture, Jardin d’email (1974) by Jean Dubuffet (1901-1985) owned by the Kröller-Müller Museum. It specifically analyses the effectiveness of using 3D models of the sculpture and its scale-model to inform the treatment process of repainting the intended design. This research was done at the initiative of the museum during the current on-going conservation treatment of the sculpture, led by its senior conservator for sculpture and modern art. Through this project, original hand-painted markings were uncovered that were hidden by overpaint. Being 600m², Jardin d’email is one of the largest outdoor hand-painted sculptures in Europe, which visitors can enter and walk on. Due to this interactive feature and exposure to the outdoor environment the work has a known history of overpainting. Photogrammetry is used as a practical tool to document the original markings, prior to repainting the sculpture based on the design of Dubuffet’s 1:10 scale-model. It is explored how 3D models of the sculpture and scale-model can be used to improve the accuracy of the repainting process. Using photogrammetry in conservation shows promising results. It involves a cross-disciplinary collaboration between contemporary art conservators and digital archaeologists, supported by information from other sources. The artistic design of hand-painted sculpture is difficult to reconstruct, but the use of 3D models alongside information from interviews with stakeholders of the artwork, allows the sculpture to portray Dubuffet’s vision.