



Conference

Venue

Date

Programme

Registration

Tickets

Accommodation

Contact

## Plastics: Looking at the Future & Learning from the Past

23rd - 25th May, Victoria & Albert Museum, London

This is a three day interdisciplinary conference covering the various issues raised by the instability of plastic materials in collections. The conference will bring together people from the worlds of art and science: conservators, scientists, curators, collectors, designers, artists and art historians.

The conference will take place on **23rd – 25th May 2007** in the main lecture theatre of the **Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 2RL (UK)**.

### The following themes will be explored:

- Conservation of plastic
- Scientific investigation into the degradation of plastic objects
- Collection - does the prospect of a shorter lifetime influence collecting decisions and policies?
- Artist's intent

The discipline of Conservation straddles both arts and sciences and so is an excellent meeting point for people from both worlds. We hope that strong links will be established between science departments in universities (chemistry, materials science), fine arts departments and with independent artists. From these links we hope that artists may learn more about the properties of

materials they use and scientists may learn more about the theory and practice of art.

## Ticket Prices

£195 (includes lunches, refreshments, reception & post-prints). There are a number of student places available at £145.

Book online: [www.vam.ac.uk/whatson](http://www.vam.ac.uk/whatson)

or call **+44 (0)20 7942 2211**

## Wednesday May 23rd

### 10:15 - 11:15

Registration & Coffee

### 11:15

Welcome - Mark Jones, Director Victoria & Albert Museum

### 11:45

You Collected What?! - The Risks and Rewards of Acquiring Cellulose Nitrate  
*Mary Coughlin and Ann Seeger*, National Museum of American History, Washington

### 12:15

Early Cellulose Nitrate Coatings on Furniture of the Company of Modern Craftsmen  
*Angela Meincke*, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

### 12:45

Gabo's Changing Reality – The Demise of Construction in Space : Two Cones  
*Beth Price*, Philadelphia Museum of Art

### 13:15

Lunch

### 14:30

Conservation of Plastics – Is it Possible Today?  
*Yvonne Shashoua*, National Museum of Denmark

### 15:00

Preventive Conservation Research for Plastics on Open Display  
*David Thickett*, English Heritage, London

### 15:30

Lights Out!!! - Research into the Conservation of Polypropylene  
*Thea van Oosten*, Netherlands Institute for Cultural Heritage, Amsterdam

### 16:00

Tea

**16:30**

Site-Specific Polythene : Experiments in Durability  
*Pamela Wells*, Independent visual artist, Warwick

**17:00**

Plastics in Everyday Life – Polymorphous (in)authenticity  
*Tom Fisher*, Sheffield Hallam University

**17:30**

Discussion & Close

**Evening Reception**

**Thursday May 24th**

**10:15**

Conservation – Restoration of 20th Century Collections at The Homewood and 2 Willow Road  
*Fiona Macalister*, The National Trust, Swindon

**10:45**

Slowing Down the Degradation of Cellulose Acetate  
*Susan Mossman*, Science Museum, London

**11:15**

Coffee

**11:45**

Houston We Have a Problem – When Flying Saucers Become Brittle  
*Tim Bechthold*, Staatliches Museum, Munich

**12:15**

The Conservation of Polymers used in Horology since the 19th Century  
*Annick Vuissoz*, Hautes Ecole Arts Appliques, Geneva

**12:45**

Lunch

**14:00**

Go With the Flow – Scientific Research & Conservation Options for a Floating Glass Fibre Polyester Sculpture & Considerations of Artist's Intent  
*Lydia Beerkens*, Stichtung Restauratie Atelier Limburg, Maastricht

**14:30**

Educating Conservation of Modern Materials : Case Studies  
*Friederike Waentig*, Institute for Conservation Sciences, Cologne

**15:00**  
Matthew Barney's Stadium – A Treatment of Replacment  
*Margo Delidow*, Sculpture Conservation Intern, Museum of Modern Art, New York

**15:30**  
Tea

**16:00**  
Hazards at Home  
*Erin Leary*, Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, New York  
*Chris Youssef*, Guenther 5 , Architects, New York

**16:30**  
A Plastic Story  
*Emma Neuberg*, Independent Artist & Designer, London

**17:00**  
Discussion & Close

**Friday 25th May**

**10:15**  
Challenge of Materials? A New Approach to Collecting Modern Materials at the Science Museum  
*Fran David*, Science Museum, London

**10:45**  
Innovation Conservation – Scenarios for Future Collaborations  
*Louise Cone*, Statens Museum for Kunst, Copenhagen

**11:15**  
Coffee

**11:45**  
Exploring Photogrammetry and Laser Scanning of Plastic Sculptures  
*Lyndsey Morgan*, Tate, London

**12:15**  
Acquiring Plastics at the Victoria and Albert Museum  
*Suzanne Smith*, Victoria and Albert Museum, London

**12:45**  
Lunch

**14:00**  
You Can Have a New One, It'll be Better Anyway – Plastic Challenging Art Insurance  
*Thomas Wessel*, AXA Art Group, Cologne

**14:30**

Overblown and Stretching Belief: Implications of the Brief Life of Rubber Components in the MIMA Jewellery Collection  
*Cordelia Rogerson*, The Textile Conservation centre, Southampton

**15:00**

Tea

**15:30**

Design and Sustainability

*Steve Akhurst*, Plastics Historical Society, London

**16:00**

Utilising Waste Plastic in Design Practice

*Rosie Hornbuckle*, Sustainable Design Research Centre, Kingston University

**16:30**

Final Discussion & Close

### Travel information

[www.vam.ac.uk](http://www.vam.ac.uk)

### Accommodation

[www.roomsnet.com](http://www.roomsnet.com)

[www.activereservations.com](http://www.activereservations.com)

[www.info.easyhotel.com](http://www.info.easyhotel.com)