Events

Days of Contemporary Cultural Heritage Representation and Conservation

Enrico Cicalò

Each territory manifests peculiar demands driving research in different directions, based on the resources communities intend to invest in for their development. Thus, it is not surprising that in Urbino, at the center of an area rich in history and culture, just a few steps from the Ducal palace –home to the *Galleria Nazionale delle Marche* that houses works by Raphael and Piero della Francesca, among the most important of the Renaissance– an important school of conservation and restoration has been founded that takes care of the precious cultural heritage of this territory. This is the framework in which the first edition of the *Days of Representation and Conservation of Contemporary Cultural Heritage* took place, which was configured as the ideal context in which to stimulate debate on the issues of heritage protection in relation to the contribution that different disciplines can make. In the case of graphic sciences and the disciplinary scientific group of Drawing, the contribution offered is rich and varied and includes research on the definition of graphic-representational standards, experimentation with enabling technologies for different audiences, the definition of digital workflows, the application of AR and VR in museum contexts and cultural institutions, and communication for the transmission of knowledge, just

to name the most investigated strands of research. In particular, these are precisely the topics –declined in the context of innovation in the preservation of objects made between the early 20th century and the present day (works, installations, architecture, inhabited environments, museums and exhibition settings etc.)– protagonists of the first edition of the *Days of Contemporary Cultural Heritage Representation and Conservation* hosted on the 30th of November 2023 in Urbino at the Department of Pure and Applied Sciences of the School of Conservation and Restoration of the University of Urbino; organized by Laura Baratin, Francesca Gasparetto, Veronica Tronconi and Alessandra Cattaneo for the School of Conservation and Restoration, Department of Pure and Applied Sciences, University of Urbino; and by Marcello Balzani, Federica Maietti, Luca Rossato, Fabiana Raco and Fabio Planu for the Department of Architecture, University of Ferrara, DIAPReM/TekneHub.

This first edition –focused on the highly topical issue of conservation and restoration interventions involving architectures and works created since the early 20th century, in relation to both the more theoretical and applied aspects– has been entitled *A Possible Dialogue: representing and preserving the contemporary*;

a title that suggests the need to look beyond traditional technical-scientific questions to share innovative approaches and research results in the technical-representational field. The emerging questions placed at the center of the reflection proposed by the Days concern the technologies that can help restorers and architects in the design of conservation interventions, the approaches that can support professionals to carry out innovative and informative work regarding the socio-cultural role of conservation, and the ways in which traditional representation theory can support a new model of cultural communication.

The conference aimed at a recognition activity through the collection of contributions and experiences to build the state of the art on representation techniques to support contemporary conservation. The call collected 24 proposals of contributions, 14 of which will be published in the days' proceedings edited by Marcello Balzani, Laura Baratin, Federica Maietti, Luca Rossato, Fabiano Raco and Francesca Gasparetto, and 6 were presented in the Turtle Room of palazzo Passionei, partly in presence and partly via webinar. Among the topics discussed, the theme of digitization in all its different possible facets, from representation tools to documentation methods, from communication strategies to

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Fig. 1. Flyer and program of the event.

the problems inherent to the management of digital data, from the challenges for preservation to the potential of virtual restoration, took center stage. A rich and stimulating program, then, representative of the challenges that characterize contemporary conservation and restoration of cultural heritage.

To complete the program of the days could not miss a guided tour of the restoration laboratories of the School of Conservation and Restoration –coordinated by Laura Baratin– with the invaluable guidance of Francesca Gasparetto and Veronica Tronconi, who illustrated the activities of the laboratory of restoration of painted artifacts on textile support, of the laboratory for the restoration of processed and/or assembled synthetic artifacts, in which contemporary art artifacts made of the most diverse constituent materials are treated, and finally of the laboratory for the restoration of scientific and technological instrumentation of historical interest. It is within these laboratories that one can experience the richness, value and differential quality of the work of the teachers and researchers of Drawing, who in Urbino develop

valuable and original lines of research that explore increasingly relevant areas for the development of territories that intend to invest in culture and art; strands of research these, which can and must expand following the virtuous Urbino model, including through the repetition of the event that it is hoped can become a constant point of reference for research on representation for the protection and enhancement of cultural heritage.

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