

# SRAL

The conservation institute



## SRAL STUDIOS

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## ABOUT SRAL

Stichting Restauratie Atelier Limburg (SRAL) is a leading institute specialised in the conservation and restoration of paintings, sculptures, contemporary artworks and historic interiors. We provide an integrated approach to conservation issues through research, consultancy and education.

## REGISTRATION

Please complete the [registration form](#)

Workshop on PVA-Borax Gels



## WORKSHOP

# PVA-BORAX GELS IN CONSERVATION

by **Andrea del Bianco & Augusto Giuffredi**

**6 - 7 - 8 May 2025 | SRAL Studios**

Join us for an in-depth technical session on high viscosity gelling agents used in conservation. Over three days, we will explore various gel types, their chemical-physical properties, and their mechanisms for addressing treatment challenges.

We will teach you a variety of gel preparation techniques, including how to modify physical properties and performance by adjusting reagent concentrations and adding various agents. Recipes demonstrated will include varying the concentration of reagents, adding rigid gels, chelating agents, water-miscible organic solvents and water-immiscible solvents through emulsifiers.

The workshop will feature a range of case studies on plaster and marble, demonstrating the cleaning effectiveness of Agar, Nevek, and PVA-Borax gels on porous surfaces. We will also cover PVA-Borax gel applications for selective removal of film-forming agents from painted surfaces and cleaning delicate materials such as textured paints, oils, temperas, acrylics, plastics, and more.

Participants will get hands-on experience in preparing and testing PVA-Borax gels, adjusting their viscoelasticity, and loading them with organic solvents and cleaning agents.

Bring your own cases for discussion and conduct cleaning tests to determine the best treatment methods.

## WORKSHOP FEES

**Early Bird: € 700 until 1st April 2025**

**Standard € 820**

**The course will be cancelled if there is insufficient participation.**

Fees will include lunches.

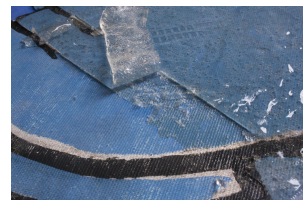
Language: English

Social Event: an opt-in dinner (at own costs) will be organised on **Wednesday 7 May 2025**.

There will be **20** places available for emerging professionals and mid-career conservators.

Accommodation and Travel arrangements are the responsibility of the participant. Participants will receive a discount code if booking at [LBG Hotels](#) in Maastricht.

Organiser: Kate Seymour, Head of Education, SRAL



**Andrea Del Bianco** graduated in 1999 with a degree in Industrial Chemistry and in 2005 as a Conservator of Cultural Heritage from the Academy of Fine Arts in Bologna, specialising in the Conservation of paper materials. In 2012, he earned a Master's Degree in the Conservation of Contemporary Materials from the Opificio delle Pietre Dure (OPD) in Florence. From 2006, he has worked on the conservation of paper, graphic artworks, and synthetic materials at Laboratorio degli Angeli, a historic conservation studio in Bologna. He has taught at the Fine Arts Academies of Naples, Verona, and Bologna. Since 2022, he has been a tenured professor at the Academy of Fine Arts in Bologna, where he teaches Technical-Scientific and Conservation subjects and coordinates the Conservation Course in Wooden and Painted Artefacts. In 2023, he joined the scientific committee of the new journal *CoRes - Conservation and Restoration*.



**Augusto Giuffredi** graduated in 1973 with a degree in sculpture from the Academy of Fine Arts in Bologna and earned a degree in art history in 1978 from the University of Bologna, specialising in Music and Entertainment. From 1980, he has specialised in conserving natural and artificial stone materials. He has managed long-term conservation projects for plaster cast collections at the Academies of Fine Arts in Naples and Bologna, as well as at artistic high schools in Modena, Reggio Emilia, and the Cassero Sculpture Museum in Montevarchi. He is currently working on recovering plasters from the Academy of Ravenna for display at the Museum of Art in Ravenna (MAR). His studies focus on stone processing, moulding and casting techniques. Since 2000, he has taught conservation at Academies of Fine Arts in Carrara, Milan, Naples, and Bologna, where he was also a course coordinator; he retired in 2020. He has been a member of the scientific committee of the Italian group of the International Institute of Conservation (IGIIC) since 2014.

## Assistant

**Margherita Mazzotti** Margherita Mazzotti graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in Bologna in 2022, specialising in the Conservation of easel paintings and wooden objects. Since then, she has worked as a conservator on ancient and contemporary paintings, polychrome sculptures, frescoes, historic interiors, and flooded artefacts. She is a member of the Cultural Heritage International Emergency Force and the Recupero Ricordi project, which focuses on conserving artworks affected by the May 2023 floods in Romagna, Italy. Currently, she is the Conservator Restorer Official of the Superintendency of Archaeology, Fine Arts and Landscape of the provinces of Ravenna, Forlì-Cesena and Rimini for the Italian State and has published in *Lo stato dell'arte 20 - Congresso Nazionale IGIIC, RestauroinAccademia*, and *BAPCR's The Picture Restorer*.

