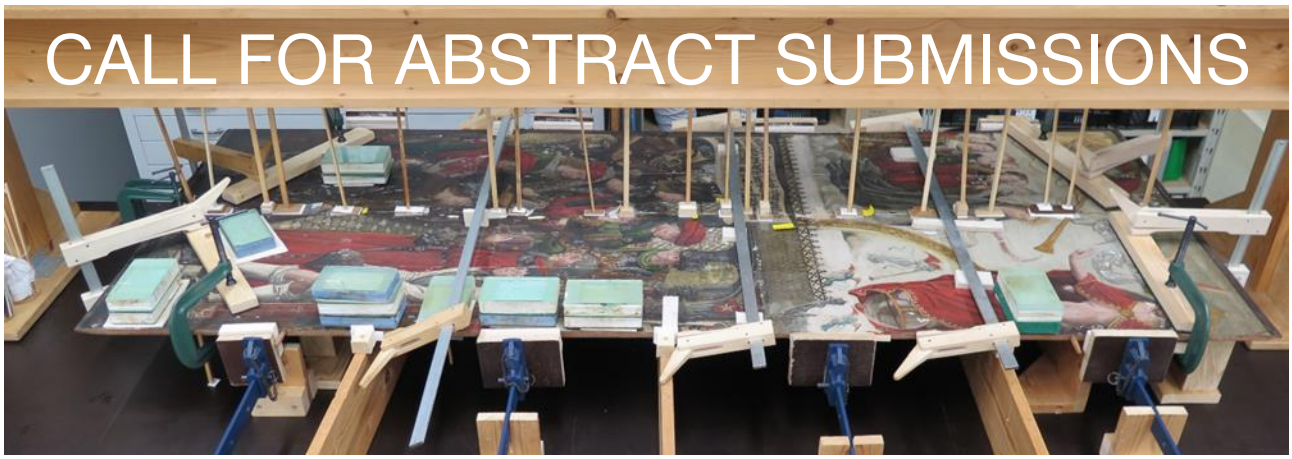

Wood Science and Technology III: methods to examine panel paintings and their preventive and remedial conservation

Thursday - Saturday, October 19-20-21, 2023
Venue: Bonnefantenmuseum, Maastricht, The Netherlands
Co-organized by: SRAL - The Conservation Institute (The Netherlands), S-MA-C-H (France), and the University of Florence (Italy).

Wood Science and Technology III follows on from the 2014 and 2016 symposia organized by SRAL:
The **2014** symposium involved several invited guest speakers as part of the Panel Painting Initiative supported by the Getty Foundation. The audience consisted solely of the Panel Painting Initiative trainees. Fourteen presentations were given over two days highlighting current trends on the structure of wood, dating wood, rheology of wood, degradation and consolidation, as well as modeling and prevention.
The **2016** symposium involved fifteen presentations and posters, as well as pitches from three sponsors, given over two days. The presentations focused on a single theme of microclimates for panel paintings.

The **2023** symposium focus is on the hygro-mechanical behavior of panel paintings and how to use this information for preservation and remedial (structural) conservation. Furthermore, methods in examining and modeling the behavior and treatment of panel paintings and related objects will be discussed.

Wood of different species is used in Europe to construct panel painting supports. Construction techniques differ according to the geographical region, periods, workshops and artistic practice. Conservation of wooden supports also differs according to contemporary practice and regional influences. However, wooden supports of all wood types are subjected to environmental conditions, which include fluctuations in temperature and relative humidity. It is well known that changes of these conditions have a dimensional impact on the wood fibers, which may cause deformations and tensions to build up, especially in restrained or multifaceted artworks. Damage may result from a release of these tensions, which is often shown as splits in the boards or opening of joins.

The complex dynamic of panel paintings in environmental conditions is dependent on a number of factors and is the focus of ongoing research. This symposium aims to showcase latest research in the hygro-mechanical dynamics of wood as used as panel painting supports, its causes and effects on the preservation of paintings and methods to mitigate damages, as well as approaches in the remedial conservation of panel paintings and related objects.

The symposium will be held over three days in October 2023. The program will consist of sessions focusing on themes covering diverse topics resulting from an open call for presentations.

- Day 1 topic: Unicity of the artwork: how experiments and simulation could support conservation. Profile: academia expert with experience in both panel painting experimental measure and modeling.
- Day 2 topic: The conservation project: how methods, experience and technique support conservation. Profile: expertise from conservators involved in treating and teaching.
- Day 3 topic: Preventive conservation: coupling system logic and decision making. Profile: practical experience in advanced preventive conservation strategy.

The call for submissions is now open. Submissions, with a maximum of 500 words, should be filled in online in the template provided here WEBLINK (also accessible via the QR-code provided below). The due date is **March 30th, 2023**.

Abstract submissions will be accepted on the following suggested topics:

- the influence of construction materials and methods, which may be influenced by local contemporary practice;
- further understanding of the influence of environmental conditions on the behavior of panel paintings;
- how damages to the wooden support occur; what effect they have had on the wooden structure, the painted surface or aesthetic appreciation;
- treatment methods for the consolidation of the wooden support and paint layers;
- treatment methods for the rejoining of wooden panels;

- advances in the development of technological systems for preventive conservation of panel paintings;
- technological advances in determining, modeling or mapping the behavior and condition of panel paintings as part of treatments;
- long term monitoring of painted wooden objects;
- design of microclimate systems and energy efficiency strategies.

A limited number of poster presentations per conference day will be considered.

The programme will consist of a maximum of 20 abstracts, with programming slots of 20 minutes and panel discussions. We will include all selected abstracts for presentation in a pre-print book of abstracts, which will be followed by a post print publication of full papers, both in physical form as well as an e-book. Full papers will be due 1st October 2023.

Registration to the conference will be opened on **July 1st, 2023**. The registration fee will include refreshments and lunches, a physical copy of the book of abstracts, and the post-print shipped to your location.

For questions, please contact education@sral.nl

Sincerely,
The scientific committee

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Jan van Brussel, *Dual Justice*, 1475-1477 (Collection Bonnefanten). Image of separation of boards.