

## **The Institute of Conservator-Restorers in Ireland (ICRI)**

The Institute of Conservator-Restorers in Ireland (ICRI) promotes within Ireland the practice of conservation of historic and artistic material to internationally accepted standards; improves public awareness and understanding of the need for conservation and provides a forum for those professionally engaged in the preservation of Ireland's man-made heritage.

The Institute's members work in both the public and private sectors on objects as diverse as oil paintings, paper, furniture, ceramics, buildings and sculpture. ICRI provides professional advice and support to curators, architects and exhibition designers as well as private clients and local heritage groups requiring guidance as how to best look after their collections or artefacts. By the end of 2015, ICRI had 124 members over five categories; 38 accredited, 61 conservator-restorer, 12 students, 11 associate and 2 Institutional.

The Institute's main objective is to promote within Ireland the practice of conservation to internationally accepted standards through the provision of professional accreditation, training workshops and bursaries to support continued professional development (CPD).

In 2015, the Board of Directors met nine times and focused on drafting a five-year *Strategic Plan: 2016-2020* for the Institute which will be submitted for approval by the members at the AGM next year. The aim of the plan is to summarise ICRI's current position and outline key objectives with respect to achieving its aims.

ICRI received funding from the Heritage Council which supported the professional accreditation of one member as a frames and gilded objects conservator following the Institute's revised accreditation and mentoring guidelines and a further five members were mentored through the process. There were sixteen CPD grants awarded to members during 2015, these were funded by the Heritage Council and ICRI membership subscriptions. The events attended were highly specialised in disciplines including easel paintings, paper, leather and scientific analysis. There are currently no formal training courses in Ireland for the conservation of objects. Consequently students have to travel abroad for specialised training. In 2015, two education bursaries were awarded to students enrolled in the full-time MA course in Textile Conservation (1<sup>st</sup> year) in Glasgow, Scotland.

Fourteen conference papers from the Institute's biennial conferences *Conservation Activities in Ireland III (2012)* and *IV (2014)* were joined together for publication. They reflect the diversity of excellent projects undertaken by ICRI members and the incredibly high standard of conservation carried out in Ireland. The Institute received funding from the Department of Arts Heritage and the Gaeltacht for the production of this publication, which will be formally launched in 2016.

A key objective of the Institute is to promote best practice by the provision of CPD courses for conservator-restorers and museum professionals. The training sub-committee organised six workshops in 2015 in the following topics: *Making a Karibari Board; Disaster Planning and Emergency Response; Project Management; Integrated Pest Management; Caring for Digital Prints and Understanding Parchment*. The Institute would like to thank both the Heritage Council and the Council of National Cultural Institutions (CNCI) for their continued and significant financial support this year.