

National Report ÖRV (Österreichischer Restauratorenverband/Austrian Restorers Association)

National Report 2013 Austria

ÖRV - Österreichischer Restauratorenverband

The yearly **General Assembly** of the ÖRV took place on June 12th 2013 and was combined with an information event on insurance for conservators-restorers in Austria. For the round table discussion, an independent insurance representative was invited. The ÖRV board members have been replaced during the course of the last year, and the **board** is now comprised of:

Beate Murr (paper conservator at the Museum of Applied Arts): president

Anke Schänning (paintings conservator, senior artist at the Institute for Conservation-Restoration, Academy of Fine Arts Vienna): vice president and editor

Sigrid Eyb-Green (paper conservator, senior artist at the Institute for Conservation-Restoration, Academy of Fine Arts Vienna): E.C.C.O. delegate, delegate to the Austrian Normalisation Institute, editor

Sabine Formánek secretary, keeper of minutes

Michael Formánek: treasurer

Edith Oberhumer (textile conservator, Museum of Applied Arts): website support

Markus Santner (mural conservator, Federal Office for the Protection of Monuments): contact between ÖRV and Federal Office for the Protection of Monuments

Susanne Beseler (stone conservator in private practice)

Beate Sipek (mural conservator in private practice)

Georg Prast (sculpture conservator in private practice): website support

Andrea Friedl (metal conservator in private practice): left the board

The board is supported by ten **subject specialists** covering a wide range of fields within conservation. Subject Specialists initiate and/or organise Jour Fixe and Seminars, contribute to the Journal, recruit new members and thus help the board raise the visibility of the ÖRV.

ÖRV publishes a quarterly electronic newsletter (*Mitteilungen*) and, as of 2008, a yearly journal titled **ÖRV Journal**. The 2013 issue contains papers based on Seminar and Master Thesis of both Austrian Conservation Trainings (Academy of Fine Arts and University of Applied Arts) and includes reports of some ÖRV-events. The Journal can be ordered through the ÖRV website.

In 2013, the series of lectures ("**Jour fixe**"), introduced in 2008, has been successfully continued. In January, Magdalena Dufftner, conservator at the Essl Museum gave a lecture on the conservation of a number of paintings by Jonathan Meese which are executed in a technique the artist calls "fluid oil painting".

Once again, the involvement of ÖRV board members in Conservation Training proved to be a fruitful "double function": several events could be organised by the Conservation Institute of the Academy of Fine Arts in cooperation with the ÖRV, continuing the series of very successful activities of the last years which included lectures, seminars and excursions which offer a platform for inspiring exchange between conservation students and professionals. A 5-day seminar on leather conservation held by Theo Sturge (UK) in February and a 3 day seminar on digital printing by Martin Jürgens (Rijksmuseum, NL) held in September were attended by both students of the Academy of Fine Arts and by ÖRV members. A number of lectures completed this joint further education program: in May, Rudolf Eichinger (Paper Engineer) gave a lecture on Modern Papers. In June, Wolfgang Schellmann, collector and private researcher, presented his studies on the production of bible letterpress printing in the Early Modern Period.

In March, Christa Hofmann (Head of Conservation, Austrian National Library) and Andreas Hartl (Institute for Conservation, Austrian National Library) presented results of the ForMuse project "Copper Corrosion on Paper" to ÖRV members. In April, an excursion to the traditional blue-print manufacture Koó in Burgenland was organised. Susanne Beseler, freelance architectural and stone conservator lead through the Vienna City Hall and reported on the conservation of its natural stone façades. Johanna Diehl, conservator at the Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien gave a tour through the newly-opened "Kunstkammer" (Art Chamber) of the museum, focussing on preventive conservation concepts, constructional measures, showcase technology and lighting concept. The new depots of the

Kunsthistorische Museum, located in Himberg outside of Vienna, were presented to ÖRV members by Tanja Kimmel, conservator at the Kunsthistorische Museum.

Finally in November, members celebrated the end of the year with the traditional goose dinner together.

For processing membership applications, especially of conservators without an accredited training, the ÖRV found the **EQF** professional competences booklet a very useful tool which has already been implemented in two cases.

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