



International Course on Stone Conservation SC13

SESSION: Structural repair of sculpture, including doweling, packing and moving

INSTRUCTOR: Guy Devreux

TIME: Monday, 3rd June / 16:30 – 18:00 (1.5 hours)

SESSION OUTLINE

ABSTRACT

The Vatican Museum Studio for the Restoration of Marble and Casts is working on new solutions to keep improving mechanical anchoring systems for detached parts of stone artifacts. In essence, the aim is to make these systems as reversible as possible, and in some cases modifying the procedure. This issue is critical when it comes to packing and shipping artefacts, a frequent activity of the Vatican Museum, which send important pieces on loan to other major museums and exhibitions. The lecture will illustrate and discuss these methods and solutions adopted by the Vatican Museums Studio, which are critical for the protection of priceless sculpture of which they are in charge.

OBJECTIVES

By the end of this session participants will:

- have been introduced to the latest technology concerning reversible pinning of sculptures;
- have a greater awareness of the challenges posed by the packaging and shipping of major artifacts and the solutions that are proposed by the Vatican Technicians.

CONTENT OUTLINE

The lecture will illustrate the packing and shipping system developed by the Vatican Museum Studio and explain why it is so useful in the management and conservation of pieces of sculpture in collections. It will present three different methods to be used in three different situations: 1) The use of a pin combined with a hole which passes through one of the parts to be attached; 2) the use of a plain pin inserted without using adhesives, a method to be used only in situations not involving traction forces and, 3) the use of a method involving the attachment of suspended or semi-suspended elements.

Different techniques for packaging, protection and transfer of stone artifacts will also be presented.

READINGS

 = Essential reading material

 = Available online

No readings.

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