



AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE FOR THE CONSERVATION OF CULTURAL MATERIAL INC.

**The Shock of the New: Modern Materials, Media and Methods
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Abstract

Title:

Digital reconstruction of a Late Bronze Age Cypriot poppy flask

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Abstract:

3D imaging technologies within cultural heritage conservation are becoming increasingly commonplace. Key challenges still remain, including accessibility to non-experts and simple, goal-orientated pipelines to fulfil specific objectives. These issues were explored during the establishment of a workflow for the digital reconstruction of a poppy flask with a missing handle, which belongs to the Cypriot Collection of the Ian Potter Museum of Art. The method involved creating two models of the poppy flask, one scanned and the other photogrammetric, and then digitally connecting the handle from another complete poppy flask from the Australian Institute of Archaeology. Scanning was undertaken with the commercial Artec 3D Spider and Agisoft Photoscan was used for photogrammetry. The study aimed to assess scanning and photogrammetry techniques through the experiences of a non-expert, including a brief evaluation of the main online resources that might be used to guide the process. The research also reviewed the suitability of open source tools Instant Meshes for auto-retopology and Blender for handle reconstruction. The digital reconstruction workflow proved to be both practical and flexible, and therefore potentially of use to conservators.

Brief Biography of the Author:

Helen Merritt is currently undertaking the Master of Cultural Material Conservation at the University of Melbourne, and will graduate in 2017. She has a doctorate in early modern British history and a postgraduate diploma in secondary teaching. Helen specialises in objects, and has developed a strong interest in digital preservation, archiving and the user experience of digital culture.

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