

Presentation Abstracts

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14th AICCM Paintings Special Interest Group Symposium

National Portrait Gallery, Canberra

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Cross-cultural engagement, professional development and practice based learning in Taiwan

Lightning talk

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Preservation methodologies for the conservation of cultural material in tropical Southeast Asia present many unique and challenging issues, however, limited research in the field has been undertaken and the practice of cultural materials conservation in the Asia Pacific is a maturing discipline. In November 2015, the *Asia Pacific Tropical Climate Art Research Network* (APTCCARN) held its 4th meeting in Kaohsiung City, Taiwan. With a focus on Asia Pacific's diverse climate and history, the conference addressed issues such as developing a regional practice of conservation within the needs, resources and communities to support locally informed decision-making. The conference theme 'Embracing Cultural Materials Conservation in the Tropics' explored the interaction of conservation and cultural heritage and invited participants to present research informed by curatorial practice, art historical research, conservation and scientific enquiry.

As an emerging conservator with interests in tropical climate conservation, attendance at the 4th APTCCARN meeting provided a platform to present, research and participate in a discussion of regionally relevant preservation solutions and engage with industry professionals and experts from around the world. Reflecting on experiences in Taiwan during APTCCARN and a one-month internship in the Conservation Centre at Cheng Shiu University following the conference, this presentation will examine the role of regionally relevant practice-based learning exchange as instrumental in the professional development of emerging conservators. Cultural materials conservation practices in tropical Southeast Asia are continually evolving and this area is rich in cultural heritage and materials conservation opportunities.

In reviewing past conservation approaches in the Asia-Pacific region, many of them are Western notions of heritage and object-centred approaches to conservation, versus ones that are value based and grounded in regional discipline. Expanding on this notion, the conference and internship outcomes will be discussed within a framework of cross-cultural engagement; an engagement which requires conservators to communicate across a range of cultures that may be disciplinary, professional and social (Sloggett 2009, p. 172). The presentation aims to advocate for the APTCCARN research network and demonstrate the vast research and learning opportunities available to conservators interested in tropical climate conservation.

Reference:

Sloggett, R 2009: 'Expanding the Conservation Canon: Accessing cross-cultural and interdisciplinary collaborations in conservation' in *Studies in Conservation*, vol. 54, pp. 170-183



Delegates from the 4th Asia-Pacific Tropical Climate Conservation Art Research Network (APTCCARN) symposium held in Kaohsiung city, Taiwan in November 2015

Eliza O'Donnell graduated from the Grimwade Centre for Cultural Materials Conservation (GCCMC) at the University of Melbourne, specialising in paintings conservation. To date Eliza has focused on the conservation of oil paintings in the Asia Pacific region, contributing to public and private collections in Melbourne, Sydney, Malaysia, Singapore and Taiwan. Eliza has recently presented at the 4th Asia Pacific Tropical Climate Conservation Art Research Network (APTCCARN) and is currently interning with the paintings conservation department at the National Gallery of Victoria.

Dr Nicole Tse is part of the research and teaching team at the Centre for Cultural Materials Conservation, at the University of Melbourne. Nicole's research is focused on the development of regionally relevant conservation solutions for works of art in tropical Southeast Asia. She has recently completed an ARC Postdoctorate Fellowship investigating the 'Twentieth Century in Paint' and earlier completed her PhD, focussing on *The Characterisation of Oil Paintings in Tropical Southeast Asia*. She is a founding member of the Asia Pacific Twentieth Century Conservation Art Network (APTCCARN) and Editor of the AICCM Bulletin

Dr. Ioseba Soraluze is a contemporary art conservator and Head of Painting Department at the Conservation Center of Cheng Shiu University. He received his PhD. from the Polytechnic University of Valencia and has worked in several contemporary art museums in Spain. Since 2006 he has been based in Taiwan and has carried out conservation and research projects with different museums, galleries and institutions in the country. He co-organized the 4th APTCCARN meeting at the Conservation Center held in Taiwan in 2015.