



KATOOMBA, NSW, 1 - 3 NOVEMBER 2017

Poster: *Using RTI to connect to your object, colleagues and the public*

Nicholas Flood

ABSTRACT

Reflectance Transformation Imaging (RTI) is an imaging technique gaining popularity in the cultural heritage sector. The technique is able to reveal fine details and subtle differences in texture that cannot be seen with the naked eye, microscopy or conventional imaging. RTI is relatively inexpensive and easily adopted by the non-expert. At the Australian National Maritime Museum a range of paper based collection items were investigated using RTI. Results revealed the power of the technique to help identify materials and techniques used in the production of objects and improve conservation decision making and documentation. It is through documentation that RTI provided a better way to connect with conservators and allied professionals, which facilitated discussion within the Museum. Thanks to the interactive online viewer, RTIs were shared with the public in a way that allowed a new type of access to objects and attracted attention to the Museum's website and social media pages. RTI can be a useful tool in conservation decision making and documentation, it promotes meaningful discussion and provides an exciting way of connecting the public to your object.

BIOGRAPHY

Nicholas Flood is Objects Conservator at the Australian National Maritime Museum. He has previously worked at International Conservation Services, the Australian War Memorial and Artlab Australia. He holds qualifications in Cultural Materials Conservation, Chemistry and Philosophy and has contributed research in the characterisation of collection material, imaging and conservation advocacy.

E-mail contact:

nick.j.flood@gmail.com