

**The View From The Edge:**  
**Reflections on conservation from a traveller among other disciplines.**

**Professor Alan Cummings**

In 2012, Alan Cummings was invited to speak at a symposium organised by the British Association of Paintings Conservator-Restorers (BAPCR). The event was staged at the famous Royal Institution in London and was titled *The Picture So Far: 50 years of Painting Conservation*. The aim of the day was to reflect on how paintings conservation had changed (or not) over five decades and to highlight specific points of development. Unlike other speakers, Alan Cummings had more or less abandoned his successful career in conservation and conservation education to take up a senior management role in higher education at the prestigious Royal College of Art in London (in 2000). In his own presentation, he attempted to provide an outsider perspective of the challenges and opportunities facing conservation. This was based on his experience of working across other vocational, professional and academic areas of activity including the sciences and engineering, the arts and design, business and innovation (and popular music). His presentation for **revivify 2016** will be an abbreviated version of his ABPCR talk and his aim will be to provoke lively discussion about the possibilities and limitations that the future holds for paintings conservation and conservators in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

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**Alan Cummings**

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