

OBJECT AND MATERIALS CONSERVATION CONSERVATION OF PLASTICS

OMI702 27 FEBRUARY-2 MARCH 2017 (3 day course)

A wide choice of primary training is available in this country in aspects of object care. However, there are relatively few courses specifically designed to train conservators to deal with modern materials. West Dean College has developed a short course aimed at meeting this training need.

This course is designed to offer participants guidance and practice in state-of-the-art techniques for the handling, packing, storage and display of plastics. It consists of theory and practical sessions, concentrating on recognising the many different materials encountered in collections, their preventive and active conservation. As well as conservation issues, topics will include history and development of plastics, production technology and use in industry and everyday culture.

Most plastics age much faster than traditional materials, between five and 35 years after manufacture, and during their ageing process they can also accelerate the degradation and corrode the materials that surround them. They need special attention when it comes to preventive conservation, but what delays the decay of one plastic might accelerate the ageing of another. Therefore it is essential that these various types of plastics are identified.

It is usually not possible to do this in detail without thorough knowledge or specialised equipment. However, there are many other aids for characterisation and identification.

This workshop helps you to get to know your own collection and objects, their nature and their needs.

Course Leader:

Yvonne Shashoua, Yvonne Shashoua is Senior Researcher in Modern Materials at the National Museum of Denmark. Her research into the degradation and conservation of plastics was gained both from working in the polymer industry and the British Museum.

Tutors:

Brenda Keneghan, Conservation Scientist at the V&A Museum, London
Cordelia Rogerson, Head of Conservation, British Library

Recommended reading:

Yvonne Shashoua. 2008. Conservation of plastics-materials science, degradation and preservation. Butterworth-Heinemann, Oxford. ISBN: 978-9-7506-6495-0.

B Lavédrine, A Fournier and G Martin (Eds). 2012. Preservation of Plastic Artefacts in Museum Collections. Editions du Comité des Travaux historiques et scientifiques, Paris. ISBN: 978-2-7355-0770-2 <http://popart-highlights.mnhn.fr>

Participants are invited to bring objects of their own to the course to study degradation phenomena.

The course is suitable for conservators, conservation scientists, curators and collection managers,

OUTLINE PROGRAMME

Day 1	Monday
16.00-18.30	Register at Reception Desk
18.45	Welcome to the College, Oak Hall
19.00	Dinner
Evening	Welcome to the course and tutor. Historical development of plastics

Day 2	Tuesday
Morning	Plastics production and properties Analysis and surveying the V&A plastics collection
Afternoon	Visit to Plastics factory Theory and practical session to identify types of plastic using non-destructive and destructive tests
Day 3	Wednesday
Morning	Degradation of semi-synthetic and synthetic plastics Preventive conservation of plastics
Afternoon	Preventive conservation of plastics (continued) Practical session to recognise and monitor deterioration of plastics Cleaning and adhering plastics in practice
Day 4	Thursday
Morning	Challenges of active conservation of plastics Cleaning of plastics – latest results from POPART Practical session on active conservation
Afternoon	Plastics in library collections and approaches to their care Understanding the impact of damage for interpretation with case studies of artist jewellery Issue of certificates
15.30	Course ends

Non-residential course fee: £436

Fully inclusive residential course fee:

Shared bathroom facilities £607

Standard room with private bathroom facilities £667

Superior room with private bathroom facilities £727

HOW TO BOOK

Please complete one booking form, or copy of form, per person per course and enclose a deposit for each course booked. On receipt of your booking, we will send all the further details you will need for your visit, including the course details and your final payment slip. Travel instructions will be sent to all students.

For further information about the course, please contact the Course Organiser: cpd@westdean.org.uk or +44 (0) 1243 818219.

For further information about booking, please telephone the Bookings Office: +44 (0)1243 818300.

Website: www.westdean.org.uk