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TRIENNIAL PROGRAM

The Modern Materials and Contemporary Art Working Group had a very productive 2020–2023 Triennium. The group's Triennial Program, the highlights of which are included and expanded in the following paragraphs, is published on the ICOM-CC website.

JOINT INTERIM MEETING

This Triennium included a joint Interim Meeting that for the first time brought together the Modern Materials and Contemporary Art Working Group and the ICOM-CC Textiles Working Group. The meeting, titled *Semi-synthetic and Synthetic Textile Materials in Fashion, Design and Art*, was held on February 21–23, 2023, on the ICOM-CC Zoom platform, and was organized by the two Working Group Coordinators Anna Laganà and Sarah Benson, along with a committee composed of Assistant Coordinators Bronwyn Cosgrove, Julia Langenbacher, Kendra Roth, and Sarah Scaturro.

This event merged knowledge and increased awareness of the technology, identification, degradation, and conservation of semi-synthetic and synthetic textile materials. Contributions for the event came from attendees that included conservators, conservation scientists, curators, scholars, artists, designers, and students. The conference included six keynote speakers, twelve paper and six poster presentations, two virtual tours (the Textiel Museum and TextielLab in Tilburg, the Netherlands, and the conservation lab of the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute in New York, USA), a panel discussion, and two speed-exchange sessions where ten speakers shared small treatments, tips, challenges, and new projects. The live event was recorded and available for a period of three months to registered participants.

The event was indeed a success and created a lot of positive feedback. The total number of registered participants was 651, with 58 countries and 6 continents represented. There were 62 registrants from **ICOM country categories 3 and 4**, whose participation was facilitated with the help of the AKC Fund, which supported the publication, enabling the event to be free and open to all who wished to attend. The postprints for the meeting will be available in open access form on the ICOM-CC Publications Online platform in 2024.



Cover of the joint Interim Meeting program.
Photo: Sarah Benson. © Nationalmuseum, Sweden. Layout: Julia Langenbacher

VIRTUAL GATHERINGS

During this Triennium, two series of virtual gatherings were launched on the ICOM-CC Zoom platform: the *Topics Series* and the *Emerging Professionals Coffee Chat*. The aim was to bring together members and non-members informally to share projects and ideas, as well as to provide emerging professionals an opportunity to network and introduce their work to our larger community.

The first *Topic Series* gathering on October 14, 2022, organized by Assistant Coordinator Flavia Perugini, explored the topic of Street Art. During the event, titled *Street Art: The role of the conservator and the collaboration with the artist*, a panel of international experts addressed the relationship between conservators and artists, reported on a multitude of initiatives created to promote and advocate for Street Art, discussed educational needs, and proposed collaborations aimed at securing the future of Street Art conservation.

The first *Emerging Professionals Coffee Chat*, organized by Assistant Coordinators Ellen Jansen and Helena Ernst, was held on November 7, 2022. Four emerging professionals shared their research studies into the conservation of time-based media, plastics, and modern paints.

All virtual gatherings were very successful and well attended, with 26 countries represented.

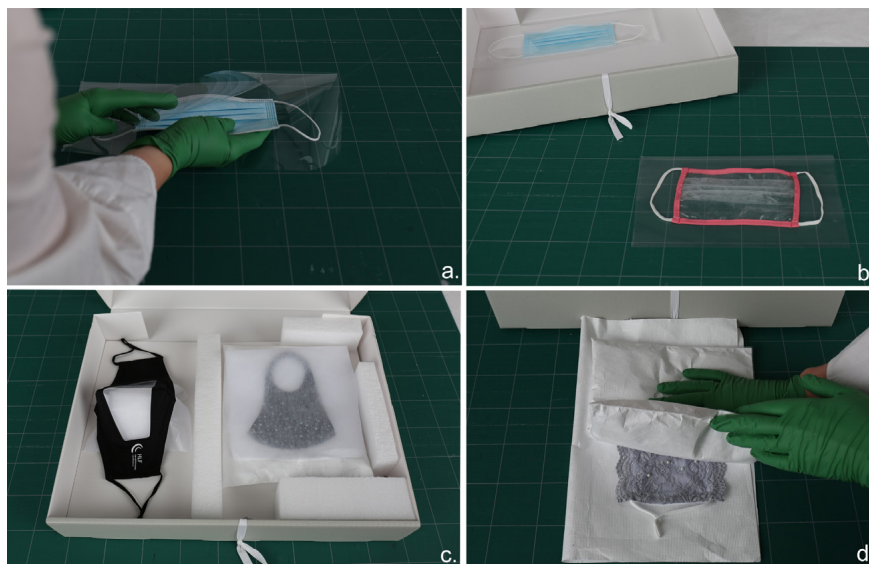
SOLIDARITY PROJECT 2021

Our Working Group was part of the Solidarity Project 2021, *Clothing the Pandemic*, organized by the ICOM International Committee for Museums and Collections of Costume, Fashion and Textiles (ICOM Costume) in partnership with the International Committee for Museums and Collections of Ethnography (ICOM-ICME), ICOM-CC, and ICOM Canada. The overall aim of the project was to connect people and institutions at a time when we were all physically distant from one another. The project had four main outcomes: two online workshops, a virtual exhibition of face masks collected by institutions around the world, an online conference that presented the work and results of the project, and an upcoming Handbook to be published online.

The Modern Materials and Contemporary Art Coordinator Anna Laganà along with the Coordinator of the Textiles Working Group Sarah Benson developed and held one of these workshops, titled *Conserving a symbol: Preservation of the face masks from the Covid-19 Pandemic*, that took place on September 22, 2021. The workshop provided information on the materials and manufacturing processes of face masks, material identification methods, examination for contaminants, handling, material condition, and strategies for storage and exhibition. The materials covered included cotton, silk, natural rubber, polyester, viscose, polyamide, polyurethane, polyvinyl chloride, polycarbonate, and blends. The workshop will be published as a guideline within the project's Handbook and a recording is currently available on the [ICOM Costume YouTube channel](#).



ICOM-CC team during the last day of the joint Interim Meeting. Photo: Joan Reifsnnyder



How to store face masks: Images captured during the workshop 'Conserving a symbol: Preservation of the face masks from the Covid-19 pandemic'

TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE

The Working Group Coordinator and Assistant Coordinators spent significant time on selecting, reviewing, and editing contributions to the Triennial Conference, to be held in 2023 in València, Spain. Twenty-nine contributions (25 papers + 4 posters) were received, from which ten papers and two posters were selected, following peer review, for presentation at the Conference.

NEWSLETTERS

The Working Group's newsletter team (Anna Laganà, Kendra Roth, Julia Langenbacher, and Helena Ernst) produced three Newsletters. Two (Issue #12, July 2021; Issue #13, July 2022) are published and downloadable from the Working Group's homepage on the ICOM-CC website, and one issue is forthcoming. All three issues report on projects, conference and course reviews, upcoming events, and new publications, and include a new section dedicated to recent theses and dissertations on modern and contemporary art conservation aimed at facilitating the dissemination of research studies and projects carried out by students and emerging professionals.

SOCIAL MEDIA AND MEMBERSHIP

Our Working Group Facebook page, managed by Helena Ernst, is very active, and engagement in this Triennium has increased considerably. We currently have 2,200 followers. With an active and diverse membership, our group has continued to grow over the years and currently consists of 357 members from 47 countries.