# FOCUS ON CONSERVATION 2025 – ROUTES TO RESILIENCE

DECEMBER 2–5, 2025, ONLINE CONFERENCE,

Museums, as stewards of cultural heritage, face increasing challenges in safeguarding their collections. Changes in our physical, societal, and economic environments all pose risks to the preservation and conservation of cultural objects and the institutions that care for them.

Continuing the "Focus on Conservation" conference series, this online event will explore how cultural heritage professionals and institutions can build resilience in the face of these pressures. The 2025 convening will centre on strategies and approaches that support the long-term sustainability of collections, conservation practices, and institutions themselves.

Through the following sessions, participants will gain insights into the various "Routes to Resilience."

Resilient Collections & Spaces | Resilient Conservation Practice
Resilient Resources & Partnerships | Resilient Futures

CONFERENCE WEBSITE:
https://www.icom-cc.org/en/news/focus-on-conservation-2025--routes-to-resilience-online-conference-december-2025

FREE REGISTRATION: https://forms.gle/AMQTDQB2M5Pq6zz57

CONTACT: FoC2025@mfn.berlin

# Presenters

## Tuesday, December 2, 2025 | Resilient collections & Spaces

**Dawn Rogala | Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC, United States of America**

Dawn Rogala is the conservation program manager and team lead at the Smithsonian's Museum Conservation Institute (MCI). She studies and conserves paintings and painted objects at the Smithsonian and affiliate institutions and creates and oversees a range of MCI programs in cultural heritage protection, provenance research, and anti-trafficking, including in-person and online training workshops for federal law enforcement, developed in collaboration with multiple Smithsonian units and federal agency partners including the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and the U.S. Department of Justice. Rogala has a doctoral degree in preservation studies from the University of Delaware and a Master of Arts degree in art conservation from the State University of New York/Buffalo State University and is a Fellow at the American Institute for Conservation and the International Institute for Conservation. She has worked with national collections around the world and authored papers and books on art technique, materials behavior, paint analysis, and research methodology.

**Kathleen Ferrier | Dutch UNESCO Commission, The Netherlands**

Kathleen Ferrier is the Chair of the Netherlands Commission for UNESCO. She is an expert in international development cooperation, human rights, and diversity. Ferrier has taught at several universities in Asia, advised the City of Amsterdam on the establishment of a museum on the history of slavery, and served for ten years as a Member of the Dutch Parliament, where she focused on international cooperation, education, healthcare, and social affairs.

**Pil Rasmussen | SMK – National Gallery of Denmark, Copenhagen, Denmark**

Pil Rasmussen is the Director of Conservation at the SMK – National Gallery of Denmark in Copenhagen. Originally trained as a paintings conservator at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, she worked for a number of years in Denmark's Louisiana Museum of Modern Art before joining the SMK in 2012. She has filled a number of different roles in the art museum context: Art handling, exhibition production, registering collections, loans processing, as well as hands on conservation. She has been leading SMK's conservation department since receiving a masters degree in the Psychology of Organizations (MPO) from Roskilde University in 2017. Her professional interests include museology, cultural politics, decision making in conservation, and sustainability – environmentally as well as socially.

**Heidi Sobol | Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Canada**

As the Senior Manager of Conservation, Heidi works with the entire Conservation team at the ROM to preserve, conserve and research the collection. The primary focus is to achieve and maintain best practice, and as a key collections resource for the institution. As the senior conservator of paintings, Heidi is responsible for the paintings at the ROM, from 3000 BCE to current practice.

Heidi Sobol obtained her Bachelor of Fine Art from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design University in 1996 and her Master of Art Conservation at Queens University in 2000. She is accredited with the Canadian Association of Professsional Conservators (2005).

**Brian Coyle | Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, Edgewater MD, United States of America**

Brian Coyle has a background in conservation, sustainability, scientific research, environmental education and administration. He received a PhD in Behavioral Ecology from the University of Maryland and has worked at the Smithsonian Institution since 2013. Currently, he is the Executive Officer of the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) that conducts scientific research and provides education to support sustainable management of ecosystems in the coastal zone where 70% of humanity resides. He has played a key role in driving sustainability at SERC and across the Smithsonian through waste reduction programs, renewable energy projects, and advancing net zero goals.

**Stefan Bichlmair | Fraunhofer Institute for Building Physics IBP, Holzkirchen, Germany**

Dr.-Ing. Stefan Bichlmair is research associate since 2010 at the Fraunhofer IBP Holzkirchen, Department Hygrothermics. In 2022 he took over the position as group manager of the working group Moisture Management and Moisture related properties. He is also involved at the WTA (Wissenschaftlich-Technische Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Bauwerkserhaltung und Denkmalpflege) in the working group "wall heating".

Current research focus on hygrothermal investigations of building components and climate control in old and historic buildings regarding durable preservation and energy efficiency as well as long-term behaviour in future climate change scenarios. In further research projects he investigates wall heating/ wall cooling systems with internal wall insulation.

**Christof Ziegert | ZRS Architects Engineers, Berlin, Germany**

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Christof Ziegert is a Civil engineer and bricklayer, born in Leipzig in 1970

After several years of practical experience as a bricklayer, Christof Ziegert studied civil engineering in Leipzig, specialising in building renovation and building materials. He then completed his doctorate at the Technical University of Berlin on damage and renovation of historic load bearing earth buildings. In 2003, he founded the ZRS Architekten Ingenieure office in Berlin with two partners. Today, the firm has around 75 employees and is active worldwide in the fields of new construction, modernisation and conservation in clay construction. In the field of conservation, the firm works for clients such as the DAI, the WMF and the British Museum in the conservation of Earthen world heritage sites, primarily in the Middle East.

Christof Ziegert is an honorary professor of earth construction at the University of Applied Sciences in Potsdam and is the academic director of the certificate programme in earth construction at the Bauhaus University in Weimar. He is chairman of the earth construction standards committee at the DIN Institute and author of specialist books and publications.

Christof Ziegert is member of ICOMOS Germany and Expert Member of ICOMOS ISCEAH (International Scientific Committee of Earthen Architecture Heritage)

**Morten Ryhl-Svendsen | Royal Danish Academy, Copenhagen, Denmark**

Since 2014 Morten has been associate professor at the Institute of Conservation in Copenhagen, where he teaches preventive and sustainable conservation. Before that he worked for 16 years at the National Museum of Denmark, as a senior scientist specializing in climate and energy issues for museum buildings. His research interests include environments' influence on heritage materials longevity, with a special focus on air pollution; energy, sustainability and the operation of museum buildings; climate control in buildings by active or passive means including the special needs in historic houses; and living conditions, health, indoor environments, and personal air pollution exposures for historic and prehistoric people, e.g., in Viking Age houses.

**Simon Lambert | Canadian Conservation Institute, Ottawa, Canada**

Simon Lambert holds degrees in Art History and Italian Literature (McGill University), Paintings Conservation (University of Urbino, Italy), and Care of Collections (Cardiff University, UK). A Commonwealth Scholar and 2010 Icon Conservation Award recipient, he previously worked with ICCROM, coordinating international conservation training and co-developing the RE-ORG method for storage reorganization in museums. Since joining the Canadian Conservation Institute (CCI) in 2012, he has provided preventive conservation advice, led training and facility advisory services, and coordinated RE-ORG: Canada. Simon is now Manager of the Preventive Conservation Division and an accredited member of the Canadian Association of Professional Conservators.

## Wednesday, December 3, 2025 | Resilient Conservation Practice

**Kate Seymour | ICOM-CC**

Kate Seymour (Chair ICOM-CC and Art Conservation Education NL) is an internationally recognized paintings conservator and educator. Chair of ICOM-CC and Fellow of IIC, she founded Art Conservation Education in 2024. She lectures and leads workshops globally, advancing conservation through teaching and hands-on expertise.

**Claire Betelu | L'Université Paris I Panthéon Sorbonne, Paris, France**

Claire Betelu is Assistant Professor, with tenure, at the university Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne

Claire Betelu holds a PhD in Art History and a Master's degree in the Conservation and Restoration of Paintings (2015). She is the coordinator of the M1 Jaussen & Savignac Archaeology and Preventive Conservation programme at the University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne. Since 2010, she has taught preventive conservation, painting, and conservation techniques. She is also an expert for the EU's TAIEX programme for conservation and collaborates on the GoGreen European research project in Work Package 3 (Paintings) and Work Package 7 (Education).

Her research focuses on the techniques and history of restoration of French 18th- and 19th-century paintings. In particular, she is dedicated to artists who designed their processes and materials with a view to preserving their creations.

**Nasir Al Darmaki | ICOM United Arab Emirates, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates**

Nasir Al Darmaki brings 20 years of experience in curation, museum strategy, and cultural heritage management. He began his career at the Sharjah Museums Authority (SMA), serving as a curator for the Sharjah Archaeology Museum for nearly a decade.

Following his success as a curator, Nasir was promoted to the role of Manager of Strategic Planning for 16 museums within the network of SMA. In this capacity, he played a key role in supporting and supervising museum curators, focusing on financial budgeting and exhibition development. His strategic vision and leadership were instrumental in enhancing the operational efficiency and cultural impact of these institutions.

Currently, Nasir serves as the Deputy Director of the ICCROM Regional Centre in Sharjah (International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property). In this role, he oversees all professional development courses and on-site projects aimed at cultural heritage preservation and management across all Arab countries including Iraq, Syria, and Palestine. His work involves coordinating efforts to safeguard cultural heritage in conflict zones, ensuring that the rich history, art and cultural identity of these regions are preserved for future generations.

Nasir Al-Darmaki was elected Vice President of ICOM in November 2025 at the 27th ICOM General Conference in Dubai.

**Anwar Sabik | ICCROM Sharjah, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates**

Born in 1972, Anwar completed his undergraduate studies in Architectural Engineering at the University of Damascus in 1990. In 2009, he completed a master's degree in Conservation of Cultural Heritage from the University of Damascus, in collaboration with the Centre des Hautes Etudes de Chaillot, Paris. Following his studies, he served as a lecturer for five years.

Anwar served as a Conservation Architect with the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums (DGAM) in Syria from 2000 to 2014.

Since January 2014, Anwar has been a Projects Manager at the ICCROM Regional Centre in Sharjah, UAE, where he oversees field projects, technical consultations, and training activities. During this period, he was actively involved in supervising and providing expert advice on several regional projects implemented by ICCROM, including the Western Sudan Community Museums, the Royal Historical Houses in Muscat, Oman, the Conservation of Al-Dur Temple, and the Conservation of Al-Midfa Tower in the UAE.

Anwar is also ICCROM's coordinator for the Master's Degree program, a joint initiative between ICCROM and the University of Sharjah and is responsible for designing ICCROM-Sharjah training courses. In addition, he has contributed to significant publications issued by ICCROM's Regional Centre on conservation projects and guidelines.

Anwar is experienced in the Documentation of Built Heritage and acts as a trainer in photography, photogrammetry, and 3D modelling of Built heritage.

**Mariana Valdez | Centro de Conservación, Restauración e Investigación (CCREI), Secretaría de Cultura de la Nación, Argentina**

Coordinator of the Conservation and Restoration Team at the Sub-Secretariat of Cultural Heritage and Project Manager at the Secretariat of Culture of Argentina.

She specializes in architectural restoration, easel and mural painting, and conservation of paper-based materials. Her academic background combines studies in cultural heritage conservation and restoration, art history, and management. She also serves as an advisor to the National Commission of Monuments, Places, and Historical Assets, and is an active member of the Sustainability Committee of the American Institute for Conservation (AIC).

**Federico Tamborenea | Centro de Conservación, Restauración e Investigación (CCREI), Secretaría de Cultura de la Nación, Argentina**

Student of the Bachelor's Degree in Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage at the National University of the Arts (Argentina). His work focuses on the preservation of cultural heritage—particularly archaeological collections—through an approach that integrates professional practice and applied research. He has participated in conservation projects in major institutions such as Manzana de las Luces, the Cabildo Museum, Palacio San José Museum, and the Casa Rosada Museum. Currently, he is part of a research project on protein-based materials in Brendel botanical models (19th–20th centuries) and collaborates with the Undersecretariat of Cultural Heritage on sustainability initiatives aimed at developing a federal network of conservators to promote environmentally responsible practices in Argentina.

**Celiwe Dlamini | Eswatini National Museum, Lobamba, Eswatini**

Celiwe Dumsile Dlamini is an ethnographer and museum professional at the Eswatini National Museum. Her work focuses on community-based heritage interpretation, adaptive museum practices, and the sustainable use of collections. With extensive experience in navigating conservation challenges, public engagement, and integrating traditional knowledge with modern museology, she advocates for museum practices that are both resilient and socially relevant. Celiwe has contributed to numerous initiatives aimed at safeguarding intangible and tangible cultural heritage in Eswatini, fostering collaboration between local communities and museum professionals. Her commitment to adaptive and sustainable museum strategies reflects a broader vision of heritage conservation in Southern Africa, where resilience is essential for maintaining cultural identity, accessibility, and long-term preservation of collections for future generations.

**Camilla Carmagos | Federal University of Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte, Brazil**

Camilla H. M. Camargos is an Assistant Professor and the current Coordinator of the Undergraduate Program in Conservation and Restoration of Movable Cultural Heritage at the School of Fine Arts, Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG), Brazil. She also coordinates NANOCOR, a research group on Nanomaterials and Advanced Materials for the Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage. Camilla holds a Ph.D. in Science (Chemistry) from the University of Campinas (UNICAMP), which included a research internship at the University of Florence (Italy), as well as a Master's in Physical Chemistry and a Bachelor's in Conservation and Restoration, both from UFMG. Her work bridges chemistry and cultural heritage, with a focus on the conservation of paper-based materials and other cellulosic substrates. Over the past decade, she has been dedicated to the development and evaluation of more sustainable nanotechnologies for cultural heritage applications, particularly those based on nanocellulose.

**Cecil K. Andersen | Royal Danish Academy, Copenhagen, Denmark**

Cecil Krarup Andersen is an associate professor in the Paintings Conservation Program at the Royal Danish Academy, Architecture, Design and Conservation. She earned her PhD in 2013 from the same institution, specializing in the structure and mechanics of lined paintings. With a strong background in conservation through both private practice and museum work, Cecil brings practical expertise to her research on preserving cultural collections. Her academic focus centers on artistic techniques, mechanical behavior, and the impact of structural conservation treatments on long-term stability. She has contributed to projects involving the monitoring of collections and the simulation of degradation scenarios, combining hands-on experience with scientific inquiry. Cecil's work bridges conservation practice and research, advancing understanding of how objects respond to environmental and mechanical impact over time. Her interdisciplinary approach supports the development of effective strategies for safeguarding heritage collections in changing conditions.

**Ayesha Fuentes | University of Cambridge Museums, Cambridge, United Kingdom**

Ayesha Fuentes is an objects conservator and researcher currently based at University of Cambridge Museums and Cambridge University Library. She is a graduate of the UCLA/Getty MA Training Program in the Conservation of Archaeological and Ethnographic Materials (2014) and has a PhD from SOAS University of London (2021) where she wrote on the use of human remains in Tibetan and Himalayan ritual objects. She is currently the Coordinator of the ICOM-Conservation Working Group on Theory, History and Ethics of Conservation. For more about her work see www.ayeshafuentes.com.

**Katharyn Hanson | Smithsonian Cultural Rescue Initiative, Washington DC, United States of America**

Katharyn Hanson, Ph.D., is an archaeologist specializing in the protection of cultural heritage. Dr. Hanson is the Head of Research and Team Lead at the Smithsonian's Cultural Rescue Initiative a part of the Museum Conservation Institute (MCI). Her research combines archaeology, remote sensing, and cultural heritage protection methodology and policy with on-the-ground action to protect culture. She received her doctorate from the University of Chicago with a dissertation entitled "Considerations of Cultural Heritage: Threats to Mesopotamian Archaeological Sites." Previously she served as a Heritage Preservation Scholar at MCI, Executive Director of The Academic Research Institute in Iraq (TARII), a visiting researcher at the Geospatial Technologies Team at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), and held post-doctoral fellowships at the University of Pennsylvania Museum and MCI. She previously directed archaeological site preservation training at the Iraqi Institute for the Conservation of Antiquities and Heritage in Erbil, Iraq. She currently serves on the Board of TARI and she has been involved in various archaeological fieldwork projects for over 25 years and has curated museum exhibits and published on damage to ancient sites.

**Lian The | ToornendPartners, Haarlem, The Netherlands**

Lian The is the Director/Owner of ToornendPartners in Haarlem, The Netherlands: a consultancy and project management company with a focus on culture buildings. She has a Master's Degree in Architecture, Urbanism and Building Sciences from the Delft University of Technology, with the specialisation Restauration (1996) and a Master of Laws (Philosophy of Law) from Leiden University (2016). For more than 25 years, she has worked with institutions such as the Rijksmuseum, Teylers Museum, and recently, guiding them through their building related projects, combining technical precision with strategic vision and a tailormade, holistic approach. Her fields of expertise include museum consultancy, master planning, sustainability and maintenance planning and project management. She is a board member of the Architecture Centre in Haarlem and of ICOMOS Netherlands. An active member of ICOM since 2007, she is now standing for election for the board of ICAMT.

## Thursday, December 4, 2025 | Resilient Resources & Partnerships

**Melissa Miller | Smithsonian, Washington DC, United States of America**

Melissa Miller is the Collections Emergency Program Specialist at the Smithsonian National Collections Program. She provides programmatic support to the Preparedness and Response in Collections Emergencies (PRICE) Team, the first pan-institutional collections emergency management team at Smithsonian. Her work focuses on the development of training opportunities, resources, and logistical mechanisms that support emergency management programs at the Smithsonian Museums, Galleries, Libraries, Archives, Gardens and National Zoo. Melissa has a Bachelor's degree in Art Conservation and Anthropology from the University of Delaware, and a M.A. in Museum Studies from Indiana University - Purdue University Indianapolis.

**Elke Selter | Belgium, previously ALIPH**

Elke Selter worked as Program Director with ALIPH – the International alliance for the protection of heritage – which is the principal global fund for heritage in crisis situations. She is a specialist in heritage protection in emergencies, bringing extensive experience in heritage conservation. Her work centers on the intersection of cultural heritage, conflict resolution, transitional justice, and emergency response. With over 20 years of professional experience across various global contexts, Elke has worked with the UN system (UNESCO, UNDP, and UNOPS) prior to joining ALIPH, and is a regular trainer with ICCROM.

**Medea Ekner | ICOM/Blue Shield International**

Medea S. Ekner is the Director General of ICOM – International Council of Museums and, as such, serves on the board of Blue Shield International, which protects cultural heritage under threat, and as trustee of the European Museum Forum. Her work is centered on organisational transformation and innovation, aiming to enhance the organisations ability to address global challenges that impact museums, cultural heritage and communities.

**José Luiz Pederzoli Jr. | ICCROM, Rome, Italy**

José Luiz has a background in polymer chemistry with focus on paper-based heritage conservation. He worked as a conservation scientist at the Netherlands Institute for Cultural Heritage (1997-2003) and ICCROM (2005-2008). He has carried out extensive international work on of risk management for cultural heritage since 2005, including new methodologies and tools, capacity development, research, and awareness. Back at ICCROM since 2018, José Luiz currently manages the Strategic Planning Unit and a portfolio of projects on heritage collections, risk management, and sustainable development.

**Henry McGhie | Curating Tomorrow, Liverpool, United Kingdom**

Henry McGhie has a background as an ecologist, museum curator and manager. He runs the consultancy Curating Tomorrow, based around the core idea that the future doesn't just 'happen', we make it through action and inaction. If we want different futures, we need different actions. Henry works to empower museums and similar institutions to contribute to a range of sustainable development agendas, with forward-looking approaches, to 'do more good' and 'do less harm'.

**Young Hee Sung | Laird Art Gallery, Toronto, Canada**

Young Hee Sung is a multidisciplinary artist and curator based in Toronto, and the founding director of Laird Art Gallery (established in 2022). Her work, developed through her original method Brush Densityism, explores the interconnection between personal experience, community, and shared resilience. Sung has presented her work in Toronto, Los Angeles, New Jersey, and Seoul, including recent solo exhibitions at Assembly Hall Gallery and Cedar Ridge Creative Centre. As a gallerist, she leads community-based initiatives such as Laird Art Link and the Live Poetry Wall, programs that foster dialogue between visual art and literature. Formerly Director of General Affairs (2024) for the Korean Artists Society of Canada (KASC), she continues to promote art as a means of connection and collective renewal.

**Catherine Snel | Sanlam Ltd, Cape Town, South Africa**

My career in the museum milieu commenced in 2001. I am a graduate of the University of Stellenbosch. I am currently employed as Archivist of the financial and insurance company, Sanlam since 2015, managing the archives and museum.

My expertise includes management (finance, human resources, administration, etc.), conservation and collections management, exhibitions (planning, managing, researching & liaising with designers), record management: implementing and promoting standardization of filing systems (digital and hard copy), project management, research, education, training and mentoring amongst others.

I have been in leadership positions on museum professional bodies since 2006 and participated in local, national and international conferences, workshops and training. I am the current Chair of ICOM South Africa.

**Ayesha Hendricks | Sanlam Ltd, Cape Town, South Africa**

Ayesha graduated from the University of Cape Town with a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry, and Honours' degree in Curatorship. She has been working in the museum and heritage sector for 12 years and has a passion for collections, conservation, and training. She is currently the Assistant Archivist at Sanlam Archives & Museum, in Cape Town.

Sanlam Archives' 107 years old collection comprise; photographs, audio-visual material, newspapers, inhouse journals, objects, and historical company records, in digital and physical format. The aim is to make the collection accessible while preserving it for current and future generations. Preventative conservation and care, are essential parts of her work, and she enjoys sharing knowledge with peers; enabling new or young professionals to "work with what they have" when caring for collections. She is a member of ICOM and the South African Museums Association (SAMA) and serves as the Membership Administrator for ICOM South Africa.

**Constanze Fuhrmann | German Federal Environmental Foundation, Osnabrück, Germany**

Head of Unit "Environment and Cultural Heritage" at the German Federal Environmental Foundation (DBU), where she promotes innovative projects in the field of cultural heritage related to sustainability, climate change and adaptation, and digitisation. Previous heritage-related roles include positions at the Fraunhofer Office Brussels and the Fraunhofer Institute for Computer Graphics Research (IGD), Competence Center for Cultural Heritage Digitisation. Trained conservator with an MA in Art History, Cultural Studies, and History from the Technical University and Humboldt University Berlin, Germany, and an MSc in Sustainable Heritage from University College London.

**Juergen Vervoorst | The International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works, London, United Kingdom**

Juergen Vervoorst is President of the International Institute of Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (IIC) and has been Head of Collection Care at The National Archives, UK since 2016. Juergen has held very positions in Germany, Austria, and the UK and has been a regular visiting lecturer at conservation programmes in the same countries. He has been Trustee of the Institute of Conservation, UK (Icon) from 2008-14, and its Chair from 2012-14. Since 2018 he has served on IIC's Council. In 2022 he completed a programme in Circular Economy and Sustainability Strategies at Cambridge University, and he is currently also The National Archives' Sustainability Lead.

**Lori Wong | J. Paul Getty Trust, Los Angeles, USA**

Lori Wong is a Senior Program Officer at the Getty Foundation, where she oversees grant initiatives supporting the conservation of cultural heritage worldwide. An accredited conservator, she holds a Postgraduate Diploma in the Conservation of Wall Paintings from The Courtauld and an MBA from The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. Before joining the Foundation in 2025, Lori co-directed The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Centre for Buddhist Art and Conservation and taught the MA in Art History and Conservation of Buddhist Heritage at The Courtauld. Previously, she spent two decades with the Getty Conservation Institute, contributing to conservation efforts at heritage sites in China, Egypt, Myanmar and Morocco. Lori is a Fellow of the International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (FIIC), an Expert Member of the International Scientific Committee for Mural Paintings (ISCMP) of US/ICOMOS and previously served on the International Council of Museums – Committee for Conservation (ICOM-CC) board.

**Tom Learner | J. Paul Getty Trust, Los Angeles, USA**

Tom Learner has been Head of Science at the Getty Conservation Institute (GCI) in Los Angeles since 2014, directing all the Institute's scientific research, and implementing projects that advance conservation practice in the visual arts. Before this, he was a GCI senior scientist, establishing its Modern and Contemporary Art Research initiative, that initially focused on the conservation of modern paints, plastics, and outdoor sculpture, but later expanded to broader aspects of contemporary art conservation, including a range of exhibitions. He has a PhD in chemistry from Birkbeck College, London, and a Diploma in the conservation of easel paintings from the Courtauld Institute of Art, London, and spent 14 years at Tate, London before moving to the GCI. He is currently Director, Chair of Congress for the International Institute for Conservation, and serves on the Steering Committee of the International Network for the Conservation of Contemporary Art (INCCA).

## Friday, December 5, 2025 | Resilient Futures

**Kim Kraczon | KI Culture, Berlin, Germany**

Kim Kraczon is a conservator of modern materials and contemporary art, specializing in sustainable practices in the visual art sector. Her area of expertise and primary focus in the field of sustainability is mitigating the socio-environmental burden of materials and methods in conservation, art production, exhibition-making, and fine arts shipping. Kraczon is an advisor to Gallery Climate Coalition (GCC), where she develops online resources and tools to facilitate an environmentally responsible art world. At Ki Culture, Kraczon is a materials specialist at the helm of the Materials Ki Book, an online sustainability guide for cultural heritage practitioners. Kraczon is at the forefront of research and discourse on a wide range of sustainability topics, participating in numerous working groups, symposiums, and panels internationally. Working at the intersection of sustainability and cultural heritage, she regularly hosts workshops on sustainable strategies for museum professionals, gallery staff, and university students.

**Emma Jhita | The Institute of Conservation, London, United Kingdom**

Emma Jhita is Chief Executive Officer at the Institute of Conservation (Icon), which she joined in 2023. Originally trained in fine art and with a background in museums and heritage leadership, Emma's previous roles have included Head of Partnerships and Development at Historic England, CEO of Didcot Railway Centre, and Director of Development at the Jewish Museum London.

A dedicated advocate for cultural heritage and historic collections, Emma is committed to advancing conservation practice and widening engagement with heritage through innovative partnership working and collaboration. She is passionate about championing the professionals who safeguard our shared history, ensuring that conservation remains at the forefront of cultural policy and practice and is accessible and relevant for future generations.

**Birgitte Aga | MUNCH, Oslo, Norway**

Dr. Birgitte Aga is a creative technologist and researcher with a PhD in the artistic and ethical application of artificial intelligence. As Head of Innovation and Research at MUNCH in Oslo, she works to ensure the development and application of new knowledge in relation to the museum's mission to preserve and make its collection accessible – while also engaging the public in new and meaningful ways. Her work is grounded in MUNCH's ambition to be a bold, creative and future-oriented cultural institution.

**Hanna Hölling | Collegium Helveticum, Bern Academy of the Arts, Bern, Switzerland**

Dr. Hanna B. Hölling is a research professor at HKB Bern University of the Arts and senior fellow at the Collegium Helveticum, ETH Zurich. Her research, publications and teaching address subjects in material culture studies, conservation, and the history of art since the mid-20th century. Amongst her books are two volumes of *Performance: The Ethics and the Politics of Conservation and Care* (coedited with J. P. Feldman and E. Magnin, Routledge, 2023 & 2024), *Object—Event—Performance: Art, Materiality and Continuity since the 1960s* (Bard Graduate Center 2020), *Paik's Virtual Archive: Time, Change and Materiality in Media Art* (University of California Press, 2017) and *Revisions: Zen for Film* (Bard Graduate Center, 2015). www.hannahoeling.com

**Johanna Eiramo | Finnish National Gallery, Helsinki, Finland**

Johanna Eiramo, Director, Digital Finnish National Gallery programme, leads the Digital Finnish National Gallery programme, where she and her team explore innovative ways to create digital content based on the Finnish National Gallery's art collection. Her work focuses on developing digital-first products and services, including VR experiences, gamified art encounters on platforms like Roblox and Fortnite, and an algorithmic art competition using open-access artworks. Prior to this role, she served as Head of Communications for the Finnish National Gallery and Ateneum Art Museum. Earlier in her career she played a key role in building the Helsinki's inward investment company Helsinki Partners. Ms. Eiramo holds an M.A. from New York University (Interdisciplinary Studies) and a B.A. from the University of Helsinki (English Literature).

**Thomas Speck | Botanic Garden, University of Freiburg, Germany**

Thomas Speck studied biology at the University of Freiburg (PhD 1990) and received the *venia legendi* for botany & biophysics in 1996. He is Full Professor for 'Botany: Functional Morphology & Biomimetics' and Director of the Botanic Garden of the University of Freiburg. After being spokesperson of the Cluster of Excellence "Living, Adaptive, and Energy-autonomous Materials Systems (livMatS)" for six years, he became Coordinator Innovation & Transfer in 2025. He is spokesperson of the Competence Network Biomimetics, member of the Board of Directors of the Freiburg Center for Interactive Materials and Bio-Inspired Technologies and a scientific member of the Materials Research Centre Freiburg. He received numerous scientific awards. His main research areas are functional morphology and biomechanics of plants, biomimetics, soft robotics and machines, evolutionary biology and palaeobotany. He is (co-)editor of several scientific books and journals and has published more than 400 scientific articles in peer reviewed journals & books.

**Annette Kühlem | Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, Bonn, Germany**

Dr. Annette Kühlem is an archaeologist whose work focuses on the cultural heritage, environmental history, and settlement dynamics of Oceania and South America, with a strong emphasis on community-based research, capacity building, and long-term local partnerships. She earned her doctorate in 2012 from the University of Bonn with a dissertation on bone artefacts from northeastern Bolivia.

Since 2003, Dr. Annette Kühlem has worked with the DAI in various roles, contributing to projects across Mongolia, Bolivia, the Solomon Islands, Micronesia, and Polynesia. Her research approach integrates archaeological investigation with community-led heritage stewardship.

Her work includes directing and coordinating major research projects on resource use and landscape history on Rapa Nui for the DAI, as well as leading geoarchaeological investigations of earthworks on Palau for Kiel University. She has carried out extensive multi-year fieldwork in Polynesia, Micronesia, and Melanesia with a strong focus on human-environment interactions and traditional knowledge.

Since 2025, she has been leading the "Tuvalu Digital Repository for Cultural Heritage", financed by the German Federal Foreign Office at the German Archaeological Institute (DAI).

**Hilke Marit Berger | Hafen City Universität, Hamburg, Germany**

Hilke Marit Berger is a cultural scientist working at the intersection of urban research, artistic practice and digital transformation. Her work explores how collective futures emerge, especially where new technologies such as AI meet local knowledge and artistic ways of thinking. She focuses on urban futures, collaborative practices and the role of imagination and memory in transformation processes. A key interest is how research, public administration and the arts can take shared responsibility for shaping society. She is currently Head of Cultural Urban Development in Kiel and previously led the international research project "Sinking Cities" as the Scientific Lead of the City Science Lab at HafenCity University in Hamburg.

**Lisa Swedberg | Kiruna Centre for Conservation of Cultural Property, Kiruna, Sweden**

Lisa Swedberg is an IIC Fellow and holds a Master of Science with a major in conservation from the University of Gothenburg. She is the Head of the Department for Paper Conservation at the Kiruna Centre for Conservation, which is a state-owned foundation that performs conservation and digitization services for, among others, The Swedish National Archives, the Swedish National Library and the Swedish National History Museum. She is the Chair of NKF-S/IIC-Nordic Group Sweden and the Secretary of the Blue Shield Sweden. She is also a part of the organizing committee for the Towards Art in Transit 2.0 Symposium in Oslo 13th September 2025.

**Johanna Leissner | Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft, Brussels, Belgium**

Johanna Leissner has been the chair of the EU OMC expert group of member states on strengthening cultural heritage resilience for climate, she has been working in the field of climate change for more than 20 years and has been developing innovative tools and materials (e.g. environmental glass sensors for museums and historic buildings) and methods by cooperating with climate researchers and heritage stakeholders; implemented the concept of Green Museums in Germany as a discussion forum for exchange since 2010. From 2020 to 2022 she has been the coordinator of the KERES project to protect built heritage and historic gardens and landscapes from future extreme climate events.