

Participation and Community Involvement in Conservation of Contemporary Art in Institutional Collections

ICOM-CC Modern Materials and Contemporary Art & Theory, History and Ethics of Conservation Working Groups Virtual Joint Interim Meeting

19 February 2026

Joint Interim Meeting Programme

This virtual joint interim meeting - organized by the ICOM-CC's Theory, History, and Ethics of Conservation and Modern Material and Contemporary Art Working Groups - aims to explore community participation in conserving contemporary art within institutional collections. It intends to address the disconnect between museums' growing participatory approaches and their limited application in contemporary art collection care.

The goal of the meeting is to examine if and how institutional contemporary art conservation practices are involving communities, how these communities are identified and engaged, the value of “expert knowledge” in these settings, and the challenges that arise in practice.

Key questions include: How do conservation institutions maintain professional standards while working with communities, and what roles do conservators assume in these contexts? What does community participation look like beyond the assumed binary between conservation professionals and “non-experts”? How are diverse perspectives brought together, and how is (or isn't) consensus achieved?

This joint virtual meeting features presentations highlighting both successful and unsuccessful examples - past, present, and future - of participation and community involvement in the conservation of contemporary art in museum and public collections to map current practices and discuss future initiatives.

The event will be held online on the ICOM-CC Zoom Platform and is open to members and non-members. The Zoom link will be provided to registered participants the day before the event.

For registration, please use the following link: [ONLINE REGISTRATION FORM](#)

Organizers and Selection Committee:

Aga Wielocha, ICOM-CC Theory, History and Ethics of Conservation Working Group Assistant Coordinator
Brian Castriota, ICOM-CC Theory, History and Ethics of Conservation Working Group Assistant Coordinator
Natalya Swanson, ICOM-CC Modern Materials and Contemporary Art Working Group Assistant Coordinator
Flavia Perugini, ICOM-CC Modern Materials and Contemporary Art Working Group Assistant Coordinator
Anna Laganà, ICOM-CC Modern Materials and Contemporary Art Working Group Coordinator
Ayesha Fuentes, ICOM-CC Theory, History and Ethics of Conservation Working Group Coordinator

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 19, 2026. Joint Interim meeting starting time (time zones): 4:30 PM – Amsterdam (CET) / 3:30 PM – London (GMT) / 7:30 AM – Los Angeles (PST) / 10:30 AM – New York (EST) / 12:30 PM – São Paulo (BRT) / 11:30 PM – Singapore (SGT)

CET PROGRAMME

16:30 Welcome and Introduction to Session I

Anna Laganà - ICOM-CC Modern Materials and Contemporary Art Working Group Coordinator
Ayesha Fuente - ICOM-CC Modern Materials and Contemporary Art Working Group Coordinator
Aga Wielocha - ICOM-CC Theory, History and Ethics of Conservation Working Group Assistant Coordinator
Brian Castriota - ICOM-CC Theory, History and Ethics of Conservation Working Group Assistant Coordinator

16:45 Dialogic Presentation:

Artists' Authority, Access, and Participation in Media Art Conservation: Reflections Across Collection-Based and Non-Custodial Contexts

Qinyue Liu - The University of Manchester

Caring for (Contemporary) Art in Dialogue

Farideh Fekrsanati - Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam

Kayleigh Kunst and Ariënné Boelens - Foundation for the Conservation of Contemporary Art | SBHK

Vivian van Saaze - Maastricht University

Cindy Zalm - Wereldmuseum

17:05 Presentation with responder:

Building Communities of Care Across Institutional Boundaries: Lessons from the display and performance of a leek dress

Geraldine McClelland and Abigail Cheam - Heritage Conservation Center

Fabiola Rocco - Singapore Art Museum

Responder: Ayesha Fuentes - ICOM-CC

17:25 Presentation with responder:

Caring for a Kinetic Room Installation Through Interdisciplinary Collaboration. Fortuna and the Immortality Garden (Machine) (2024) by Kara Walker

Chantal Willi

Responder: Stephanie de Roemer - The British Museum

17:45 Q&A

18:05 Break [15 min]

18:20 Recap and Introduction to Session II

18:30 Dialogic Presentation:

Connecting Communities and Conservation: Participatory conservation as a citizen science model for contemporary art from Brandi to nowadays.

Paola Mezzadri - Istituto Centrale per il Restauro

Hacking the archive: Examples of the queer preservation through community action in Portugal

Laura Pinto da Mota - NOVA FCSH (Faculdade de Ciências Sociais e Humanas)

18:50 Presentation with responder:

Activating an Artwork at MAC USP: Collaboration Between the Collection and Education Departments

Andrea Alexandra do Amaral Silva e Biella, Ariane Soeli Lavezzo, Maria Angela Cerri Francoio
- Museum of Contemporary Art of the University of São Paulo

Responder: Jane Henderson - Cardiff University

19:10 Dialogic Presentation:

Mego Melt: Learning from Online Doll Enthusiast Communities

Pia Shen-Berro and Yara Jakobs – University College London (UCL)

First Contact with Ambitious Hobbyists

Morgan Stricot - ZKM | Center for Art and Media

19:30 Q&A

19:50 Closing remarks

Sessions will be introduced and moderated by:

Aga Wielocha and Brian Castriota, ICOM-CC Theory, History and Ethics of Conservation Working Group Assistant Coordinators

Natalya Swanson and Flavia Perugini, ICOM-CC Modern Materials and Contemporary Art Working Group Assistant Coordinators

Anna Laganà, ICOM-CC Modern Materials and Contemporary Art Working Group Coordinator

Ayesha Fuentes, ICOM-CC Theory, History and Ethics of Conservation Working Group Coordinator