



11th VDR Conservators' Day  
Interdisciplinary conference  
in Kassel  
Nov 26th – 28th, 2020

A large, high-contrast, black and white image of a fingerprint, showing the intricate ridges and valleys, serves as the background for the main title.

# LOOKING FOR TRACES. DISCOVERING (HI)STORIES

**Sciences in Cultural Heritage**

**Call For Papers**

**Verband der  
Restauratoren**



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Sciences in Cultural Heritage**

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**Call for Papers**

**The 11th VDR Conservators' Day takes place from November 26th – 28th, 2020 in Kassel.**

**The conference „Looking for TRACES. Discovering (HI)STORIES – Sciences in Cultural Heritage“ addresses the complex changes to which cultural heritage from all centuries is intentionally or unintentionally subject.**

**The aim of the conference is to promote an interdisciplinary exchange amongst conservators with different specialties and colleagues from associated disciplines such as art history, natural sciences, prehistoric archaeology, cultural anthropology, astronomy, and architectural history.**



## Looking for TRACES. Discovering (HI)STORIES Sciences in Cultural Heritage

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Change and modifications to works of art and cultural heritage often tell exciting stories and derive from a variety of sources. Changes can be dependent on social and political circumstances, subject to fashion, a result of a change of the owner's taste, or can be made by the original artist. However, the appearance of an artifact may also have changed significantly due to aging; in some instances, color or shape are completely transformed. The reuse of objects can also lead to dramatic changes. In some cases, the continual transformation of an object is intentional. These changes are the fingerprints of history – extant traces of the past – and should remain part of the artwork's biography. The aim of the conference is to tell these exciting stories of evidence, traces, and processes discovered because of change. Nothing remains the same!



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To illustrate this topic, conservation case studies, art historical research, and analytical projects of all conservation disciplines can be proposed.

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**Relevant questions include:**

**What changes are there and how did they happen?**

**Which methods can be employed to record and document these changes?**

**Which treatment options are available to address (i.e. remove or maintain) the changes and which decision-making processes are used to choose a treatment?**

**How are the objects' transformational processes conveyed to the intended audience?**

**Additionally, present-day perspective is interesting:**  
**Are past reasons for altering an object still valid today?**

**Can historic alterations be equated with the current concept of recycling or upcycling?**

**Two days of varied and concurrently run panel sessions are planned.**

**In addition to contributions from the conservation and restoration fields, colleagues from all associated disciplines such as art history, natural sciences, prehistoric archaeology, cultural anthropology, astronomy, and architectural history are invited to participate in the conference.**

**It is our goal to sharpen our senses together in order to recognize the traces that tell us something about us and our ancestors, and how cultural heritage was and is handled.**



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**The conference languages are German and English; no simultaneous translation. Two lecture days will be complemented by evening events and the VDR's 17th General Assembly. The festive evening events will make it easier to get to know one another and engage in more casual interdisciplinary dialogue. The Museumslandschaft Hessen Kassel provides an appealing ambience with its centrally located historic venues.**

**A hotel stay for one night and partial travel expenses will be covered for one speaker per presentation. The conference fee will be waived for the main speaker and one additional speaker of a co-authored presentation.**

**Guidelines for your contribution**

**The abstract should be no longer than 3,000 characters (including spaces) and can be submitted in German or English. The talk should not exceed 20 minutes. Please send us a relevant image of your proposed presentation in TIFF, PNG or JPEG format (300 dpi) and brief information about yourself (name, contact details/address, professional position).**

**Please don't hesitate to contact the organization team with any questions.**



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**Dates**

**Deadline is January 1st, 2020**

**We will get back to you by end of January.**

**Contact**

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**Organisation team**

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Kühner, Christine Machate, Torsten Nimoth, Dr. Wanja Wedekind,  
Meike Wolters**

**Venue**

**Museumslandschaft Hessen Kassel**

**We look forward to a variety of contributions with topics from all  
disciplines, in order to offer a diverse and exciting program!**