



THE PLASTICS HERITAGE CONGRESS 2022, NAPLES

Naples | Italy

17 | 19 October 2022

Academy of Fine Arts of Naples)

Under the aegis of the international association **PHEA** (Plastics Heritage European Association), the **PLART Foundation** of Naples - together with the School of Restoration of the Fine Arts Academy of Naples - will host the **PLASTICS HERITAGE CONGRESS 2022**, sixth edition of the international conference on the themes of conservation and history of cultural heritage in plastic. An innovative and interdisciplinary subject, strongly oriented towards experimentation and the creation of new ideological and technological solutions that are internationally shared.

The conference will deal with the historical, artistic, conservational, technological, socio-economic and environmental aspects of our contemporary heritage, focusing on the material that has revolutionized the history of technology in modern times: plastic, a material that is radically widespread in all application fields of human society, subject of strong environmental controversies, but extremely fragile from a conservative point of view.

Therefore, the protagonists of the debate will be the countless semi-synthetic and synthetic polymeric materials that have led to the creation of works of art, design and architecture and that have allowed the creation of an almost infinite number of products in the sectors of fashion, science, music and industrial design in general, which today represent our material culture. The successful preservation of this material heritage will result in the handing-down-to-posterity of the cultural and artistic values of the human doings in our present society.

The conference will be held in English and will be hosted at the Academy of Fine Arts in Naples, in close contact with the students of the “conservation of the contemporary” courses of the Restoration School.

The various committees that handle the management of the PHC are of great prestige. The Honorary Committee, chaired by Giovanna Cassese, includes prominent names from the Italian scientific and historical-artistic sectors, including professor Luigi Nicolais, professor Luigi Campanella of the Sapienza University of Rome, Barbara Balbi of the SABAP of Naples and the president of the MADRE Museum Angela Tecce. The Programme Committee, chaired by professor Günter Lattermann of the University of Applied Science HTW Berlin, which deals with the approval of the proposed contributions, counts amongst its members Suzanne de Groot of the Netherlands Institute for Conservation, Art and Science (NICAS), Arnaud Bozzini of the Brussels Design Museum and Susan Mossman of the Science Museum in London. The Scientific Committee, which will finalise the proceedings of the conference, chaired by professor Jake Kaner of Nottingham Trent University, boasts among its members professor Silvia Garcia Fernandez-Villa and Elisa Storace, curator of the Kartell Design Museum.

The guest speakers, who will be moderating the various sessions under the coordination of Alice Hansen, curator of the Plart Museum, are also of international importance: Dr. Heinz Stahlhut of the Ernie Museum in Lucerne, former curator of the Victoria and Albert Museum Brenda Keneghan and professor Maria João Melo from the Department of Conservation and Restoration of the Faculty of Sciences and Technology - NOVA University of Lisbon, just to name a few.

The Plastics Heritage Congress aims to create shared strategies in order to preserve this important historical and artistic heritage and provide food for thought to the new generation of conservators.

The submission deadline is 18th July 2022.

DEDICATED WEBSITE

<https://plasticsheritage2022.org/>

20th October 2022 – Plart Museum PHC School “The conservation of industrial design”

Following the conference, the Study Day “**The conservation of industrial design**” - dedicated to students and young researchers - will touch the issues related to the protection of industrially manufactured products, largely produced thanks to plastic materials, which represent the most recent experience of human society.

At the end of the School, the **Workshop: “Restoration and cataloguing of synthetic artefacts”** will be held by the conservators of the Plart Museum.

- **PHEA** is a network of European institutions involved in the study of plastics heritage in all its aspects and periods, such as university departments, public museum collections, corporate museums, etc ...

The main objectives of the Association are:

- organising study activities of the artifacts in historical semi-natural and synthetic polymeric materials
- communicating and disseminating the research activities of the various members
- encouraging the cooperation between members, also through the exchange of students and researchers for short term research projects
- applying for European funding for Plastics heritage research
- organising the Plastics Heritage Congress every two years
- encouraging the publication of the results in the e-plastory journal. International Journal of Plastics History

- Founded in 2008, the **Plart Foundation** is a museum institution that aims at disseminating the culture of plastic and design by highlighting the new scenarios defined by the "material of wonders" and supporting the research of artists and designers whose goal is creating more environmentally sustainable polymers.

The Plart Museum has been recognised as a Museum of regional Interest by the Campania Region. It is also part of the "rete dei Giacimenti del Design Italiano" (*Italian Design Reservoir network*) established by the Triennale of Milan – Museo del Design (*Museum of Design*), and is one of the "Luoghi del Contemporaneo" (*Places of the Contemporary*), a project promoted by the Direzione Generale Creatività Contemporanea del MiC Ministero della Cultura (*Directorate General of Contemporary Creativity of the MiC Ministry of Culture*), for the mapping and promotion of the localities of contemporary art in Italy. In 2021, the Plart Foundation was recognised as an Institution of High Culture of the Campania Region.

Over the years, the Plart has promoted cultural and exhibit activities that investigate the world of the arts beyond pre-defined disciplinary barriers.

In the field of preservation, the Plart carries out research activities aimed at developing innovative methods for the restoration of the plastic materials that constitute its varied collection.

- The **Academy of Fine Arts of Naples** is one of the oldest and most prestigious in Italy. It was founded by Charles of Bourbon in 1752, with the specific intent of "educating" young aspiring artists and, until a few decades ago, it was the only Academy in the southern peninsula of Italy. An aggregating hub and place to debate the arts, where entire generations of southern and Italian artists were formed, and where famous foreign masters and teachers worked, creating that European atmosphere that still characterises it today. In addition to being privileged places of contemporary art, devoted to teaching, research and production of the arts at a university level, the Italian Fine Art Academies are often themselves complex cultural assets and constitute an excellence of the country, a training model of particular charm and appeal for artists, designers and restorers in training from all over the world. Within these Academies, you will find areas dedicated to painting and plaster cast collections, libraries, historical archives, cabinets containing prints and drawings, collections of sculptures, engraved plates, ancient photos or collections of contemporary art.