Conserving Canvas Portal

Feasibility project for a platform to share data and exchange knowledge about past and current research and conservation of paintings on canvas.

Abstract

The RKD – Netherlands Institute for Art History is researching and planning the development of an online platform as a resource for collecting and sharing information related to the history, care, and conservation of canvas paintings. The project is supported by the Getty Foundation’s Conserving Canvas initiative.

Perspective

To become the first port of call for the scholarly public to find and exchange data and information about western and nonwestern, historical and contemporary paintings on canvas.

What is the RKD?

RKD – Netherlands Institute for Art History is one of the world’s leading documentation and research institutes. The RKD manages archives, documentation and photographic material and the largest art historical library on Western art with the focus on Netherlandish art. The collection includes conservation & research data. RKD has successfully developed databases, such as the technical research documentation database RKDtechnical, and can rely on working along international standards and a state-of-the-art digital infrastructure on art works.

Parameters

The portal should be an international, multilingual, sustainable, ever-changing and growing, collaborative and interdisciplinary resource about conserving canvas. The exact parameters will be defined in collaboration with the Steering Committee representing the scholarly community.

IT requirements

The portal will serve as a platform for demonstrating good practice in the presentation of canvas data in a structured and integrated way. The platform is not intended to stand on its own but should interface with other (web) resources and open access institutions, fostering international collaboration and the sharing of information and expertise for the maximum benefit of a worldwide audience. The aim is to rely on user generated content. The platform should be accessible, searchable and sustainable.

Content

High-quality and in-depth art-historical, technical and conservation information and (visual and textual) documentation from institutions and individuals worldwide.

Proposal & proof of concept

In December 2022 the feasibility phase will be concluded with a proposal that includes the parameters, IT requirements, content components, development and proof of concept for a successful implementation of the platform in the years to come.

Contact information

We value your feedback and input.
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