



foundation  
for advancement  
in conservation

**Protecting Cultural  
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## **PRESS RELEASE** **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Is There a Future for Printed Photographs?**

WASHINGTON, DC—A three-day program about the present and future of photography begins today at Yale University. Organized by the Foundation for Advancement in Conservation (FAIC), “Material Immaterial: Photographs in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” explores whether the physical photograph still matters today—as a source for teaching, learning, and scholarship—and will it matter into the future?

“This is a critical moment in the medium of photography: the transition from tangible object to code,” said co-organizer Monica Bravo, Assistant Professor of History and Theory of Photographic Media at California College of the Arts. Paul Messier, co-organizer and Director of the Lens Media Lab at Yale’s Institute for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage, added, “The long-term relevance and sustainability of the material aspects of the medium have been called into question.”

Educators, students, curators, photographers, and conservators are participating in the program’s symposium and elective seminars. These professionals are focusing on new tools for researching photographs, with an emphasis on both the material and immaterial aspects of the medium.

“Conservators play an essential role in preserving material connections to our past and this is a valuable conversation to have within the broader cultural field,” notes Eryl Wentworth, FAIC Executive Director. “We are excited to have this opportunity to holistically approach the preservation of photography in this unique context.”

The symposium is made possible through the support of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation fund for Collaborative Workshops in Photograph Conservation and a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, as well as sponsorship from The Better Image, Charles Isaacs Photographs, Inc., and Hans P. Kraus Jr., Inc. Additional information about the event can be found on the FAIC website:

<https://learning.culturalheritage.org/material-immaterial>

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The Foundation for Advancement in Conservation’s (FAIC) mission is to save cultural heritage for future generations, protecting it from decay and destruction. We advance research and education, lead treatment and collection care initiatives, and deploy conservation expertise to where it is most urgently needed. Our work empowers conservation professionals, strengthens cultural institutions, and engages stakeholders, including public audiences, as we work together to protect cultural heritage for humanity.