



Emergency Response Workshop

8 December 2020, online via Zoom

LEARNING OBJECTIVE:

This workshop is the first in a series designed to be a response – in light of the events of August 2020 – to a demand from existing conservation professionals for practical assistance as well as theoretical support. It provides participants with an opportunity to consider or further their existing knowledge of how to manage accidental and emergency damage to artworks and related objects. As well as classes on theory, there will also be an afternoon Q&A clinic where individual and specific practical questions will be addressed.

No materials are required for this particular workshop.

WORKSHOP COST: nil
REGISTER: by emailing: Bema@bema.museum
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: 5 December 2020

WORKSHOP INSTRUCTORS:

- **Rachel Barker**, accredited conservator, specializing in modern and contemporary paintings.
- **Melissa Lewis**, accredited conservator, specializing in modern and contemporary and Asian art on paper and works specifically sensitive to water.

Rachel is a founding director of Rachel Barker Associates (RBA), a high-level consultancy offering collection care, conservation education, technical art history and the conservation of modern and contemporary art. RBA is a full member of ICOM.

Melissa founded *Modern British Conservation* in 2013 and regularly works for RBA.



SCHEDULE:

0900 – 0915 hrs:

0. Introduction to Workshop (Rachel Barker (RB))

0930 – 1200:

1. Preparing for an emergency (RB)

- Write a Disaster Recovery Plan (risk assessment and mitigation)
- Developing a response team
- Buying Supplies; PPE and materials
- Having list of specialist emergency responders and conservation experts
- Acquiring a disaster kit

2. What is the specific emergency and response required to it? (Melissa Lewis (ML))

- Arson/fire
- Flood/liquids
- Explosion
- Chemical attack
- Architectural structural emergency

Guest Appearance by Nikolaus Wilke (Partner and ICM Director at IPARC), covering:

- why we have insects in collection
- why it's bad to have insects in collections
- how to keep them out with focus on IPM (Integrated Pest Management)
- the most relevant species
- options to treat infestations

Please note that, subject to demand, we are hoping to include more a longer, more detailed specialist session on contamination and pest management in a later workshop.

15-minute break



3. Response – The first 72 Hours (RB)

- Assess environment for human safety and arrest any ongoing activity that could worsen the situation, check electrics
- Documenting the emergency – Photographic and written accounts
- Triage
- Determine Salvage Priorities
- Categorise objects for different immediate treatments, e.g. does the object need to dry out or undergo emergency consolidation before handling?
- Removal to recovery environment and safe storage

4. Stabilizing the environment and the collection after 72 hours (ML)

- Categorizing which objects need immediate and more comprehensive treatment and which can wait.
- Drying methods for wet collections
- Treatment for mould infestation
- Materials required for these treatments.

1200 – 1300 hrs LUNCH

1300 – 1530 hrs:

5. Categorizing conservation treatments and storage for different object types into the longer term (RB&ML)

- Paper
- Books
- Photographic Materials
- Textiles, including leather and skin
- Paintings
- Furniture and Wood
- Inorganic materials (ceramics and metals)
- Demo

15-minute break

1545 – 1615 hrs:

- ### 6. Q&A Session:
- Workshop participants will have an opportunity to ask any follow-up questions and provide feedback on the day's proceedings.

CLOSE