

INTACH CONSERVATION INSTITUTES (ICI)

The INTACH Conservation Institutes (ICI), established in 1985, constitutes the Art & Material Heritage Division of INTACH and is responsible for the conservation and preservation of works of art with the objective of preserving heritage for future generations. It is the largest network of conservation centres in the world with centres located in Bangalore, Bhubaneswar, Jodhpur, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai, and New Delhi. Working towards its objective, ICI undertakes continuous study and research to develop the best methodologies in the field of conservation science in India and provides unmatched services in conservation for art collectors. The ICI also works towards spreading concern for our heritage through seminars, workshops, publications, and heritage awareness programmes. With the network of regional centres and INTACH Chapters, the Art & Material Heritage Division of INTACH has the capacity to undertake conservation work in all parts of the country.



OBJECTIVES

- To preserve the art and material heritage for future generations
- To undertake continuous study and research to develop and test methodologies for path-breaking contributions in the field of conservation science
- To provide unmatched services in conservation and preservation of works of art
- Capacity building and offer training in the field of art conservation
- To spread the concern for heritage conservation and preservation



FACILITIES

ICI conservation laboratories are equipped with facilities for conservation of paintings, paper objects, textiles, stone and wooden objects, ceramics, glass, plasters, metals, wall paintings and all other kinds. These include the latest tools and equipment required for work on objects and a wide range of conservation material. The laboratories also facilitate teaching of conservation practice to students, both seminar teaching and practical demonstrations and research work.

STAFF

A dedicated team of conservators at various Centres work together to realize the objectives of the ICI. The staff of various ICI Centres represent years of varied professional training, specialized study, and intensive experience in the science of conservation. Our conservators have trained at major institutions, both in India and abroad, and keep abreast of the latest research and innovations in conservation practice.



SERVICES

ICI Centres offer a wide variety of professional conservation and preservation services to various governmental and non-governmental organizations, private collectors and corporate clients all over India. Services include the examination and treatment of objects, assessments and surveys of collections, consultation on many collection related topics, documentation and cultural heritage mapping, educational activities, exhibitions and public outreach programmes.

EXAMINATION

Objects requiring varying levels of technical study and evaluation can be brought to the ICI Centres for examination. Examination may be requested as a prelude to conservation treatment or as an effort to better understand the object. The conservation staff can recommend and facilitate scientific testing and can interpret technical data generated during analysis.



DOCUMENTATION AND SURVEYS

Conservation assessment surveys to document the condition and treatment needs of artifacts in a collection are done both for institutional and private collections. Conservators provide a written overview of collection, the materials and techniques used in artefacts, the deterioration observed and the required efforts at conservation. The assessment also includes recommended measures for preservation, including evaluation of storage areas, exhibition techniques, pest control methods, housekeeping, and any other factors that affect the long-term survival of artefacts.

TREATMENT

ICI laboratories offer conservation solutions for a wide range of object types including paintings, works of art on paper, documents, books, manuscripts, palm leaf objects, photographs, textiles, wooden objects, stone objects, ceramics, glass, metals, wall paintings, stucco, leather and other organic and composite objects like ethnographical objects. We also undertake conservation of frames and gilded surfaces.

Treatment services vary from simple preventive stabilization to complete scientific treatment and cosmetic reintegration.



ON-SITE CONSERVATION PROJECTS

The ICI Centres undertake conservation of collections on site by setting temporary laboratories. Projects involving in-situ conservation and preservation of stone and decorative features of monumental



architecture that include wall paintings, stucco and plaster finishes, mosaics, tiles, cast stone, terracotta, relief work, decorated wooden elements, decorative glass, gilding and other embellishments are also undertaken.

CONSULTATION

Conservators at ICI Centres are available to consult on a wide variety of issues related to collection use, care and conservation. Advice is available on topics such as storage techniques, proper display, exhibition materials, new museum construction, object housings, mounting, matting, framing and safe transportation. The conservators can provide up-to-date technical information for collectors and museum professionals.



Boat-building diorama at Odisha State Maritime Museum, Cuttack

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The ICI staff is available in the event of an emergency, and can provide on-site response, as well as long-term 'Disaster Management Planning' for collections.

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TRAINING AND OUTREACH PROGRAMMES

ICI also aims to strengthen the implementation of the mission and objectives of INTACH across the sub-continent through programmes for training and raising awareness in all aspects of heritage conservation and management.

ICI Centres offer internship opportunities for postgraduates with a degree in art conservation both from India and abroad.

The ICI regularly organizes technical and non-technical training courses and workshops for conservation professionals and collectors. We also organize interactive sessions with art collectors, art gallery owners, school children and rural dwellers. We also welcome prearranged visits by groups.

CAPACITY BUILDING

The main objectives of the ICI capacity building programme are:

- Develop guidelines and promote uniformity and standardisation of conservation practices with institutions in India as well as abroad
- Develop skills through training programmes, workshops, seminars and internships at various centres

- Up-gradation of conservation skills through training and interaction with international institutions
- Promote and undertake documentation of traditional knowledge systems and building craft skills as well as undertake research on materials used in conservation
- Offer special courses on art conservation
- Engaging stakeholders and local communities in capacity development and maintenance of heritage

Workshops and training programs are specifically tailored and run at our laboratories. Some of the workshops and training programs we can deliver include:

- General preventive conservation theory and practice
- Environmental monitoring
- Storage, handling and display techniques for different materials and object types
- Condition reporting and documentation of all material types and objects
- Basic conservation techniques
- Disaster preparedness planning
- Pest Management

PUBLICATIONS

INTACH Conservation Institutes through a variety of publications such as pamphlets, directories, brochures, books, etc. assists conservation professionals in their work. ICI also publishes a range of booklets on various objects which are aimed at members of the public providing basic information on proper care and handling.



INTACH

CONSERVATION INSTITUTES (ICI)

ART & MATERIAL HERITAGE DIVISION

