



**The International Institute for Conservation
of Historic and Artistic Works**

PRESS RELEASE

IIC Congress 2008 – ‘Conservation and Access’

Registration is now open for IIC’s twenty-second international Congress, which will take place in London from the 15th to the 19th of September 2008. Full details are available at www.iiconservation.org

Enabling people to access and enjoy art and heritage is our shared aim. Cultural institutions throughout the world strive to provide and encourage physical and intellectual access to their collections and sites. Conservators and conservation scientists play a vital part in enabling cultural heritage to be enjoyed while not compromising its condition or survival.

The programme will examine the central role of conservation in the presentation and protection of the world's cultural heritage. It will explore the many ways that heritage professionals engage in this sharing worldwide, whether that involves people going to see that heritage or the heritage itself travelling the globe.

An impressive range of over 40 speakers is lined up to report on contemporary thinking, current research and examples of best practice. Topics will include conservation involvement in:

- safe packing and transport
- managing the exposure of vulnerable objects and sites
- collaboration in education projects and enabling handling of collections
- strategic conservation management and prioritising access
- the use of computer technology for access
- discovering public attitudes to restoration
- public engagement with conservation
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The varied locations for conservation involvement cover the range of archaeological sites, monuments, historic houses and churches, museums, libraries and archives. The types of object dealt with range from manuscripts to murals and from fossils to fireboats.

The approaches vary from technical experimentation to philosophical analysis, yet there is a common theme of assessing risks and judging the critical balance between access now and preservation for the benefit of future generations.

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