

## Technology and Conservation of the Visual Arts (A003023)

**Course size** *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

**Credits 5.0**

**Study time 150 h**

**Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2025-2026**

A (semester 1)

Dutch, English

Gent

lecture

seminar

**Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026**

Schepens, Lisa

LW17

staff member

Remond, Jaya

LW17

lecturer-in-charge

Martens, Maximiliaan

LW17

co-lecturer

**Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026**

[Bachelor of Arts in Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies](#)

**crdts**

5

**offering**

A

[Exchange Programme Art Studies](#)

5

A

[Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies](#)

5

A

**Teaching languages**

English, Dutch

**Keywords**

Materials and techniques of art, material characteristics, processes of degradation, conservation and restoration of artefacts, imaging techniques, scientific analytical methods

**Position of the course**

This advanced course aims to present, analyse and contextualise the materials, media, processes and techniques of artworks in a broad practical, social, and cultural perspective. The course tries to elaborate on the scientific and methodological aspects specific to art history and to create an insight into the current state of research.

**Contents**

- Material aspects and state of preservation of works of art
- Techniques of fine arts
- Aging of artistic materials
- Practical and ethical aspects of conservation and restoration of works of art and other cultural products
- Application of research methods and tools from the natural sciences in conservation and restoration of works of art.

**Initial competences**

To have knowledge of methodology and current state of research in different art disciplines.

**Final competences**

- 1 To have knowledge of the material aspects and the state of preservation of works of art and artistic techniques:
  - a) memorize (and be able to explain) basic making processes;
  - b) identify and understand the difference between various types of media and techniques (for instance: make the difference between a woodcut and an

engraving);

c) have a basic understanding of the history of these techniques.

- 2 To have an insight into the problems of conservation and restoration, and to appreciate the role they play in the history, preservation, and observation of objects.
- 3 To have an independent, critical and creative reasoning power: gain specialized vocabulary as well as the visual/analytical tools needed to identify and talk about a range of artistic techniques.
- 4 To be aware of the practical reality of work in museums and conservation laboratories, and, in the process, connect theory with a practice.
- 5 To have a professional ethic attitude in the handling of works of art and other cultural objects: learn how to properly look at and handle objects, and get enlightening insights into their materiality.

#### **Conditions for credit contract**

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

#### **Conditions for exam contract**

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

#### **Teaching methods**

Seminar, Lecture

#### **Extra information on the teaching methods**

- Lectures
- Independent work: literature, some of which will be put online (particularly for conservation)
- Fieldwork & Excursions (in smaller groups)
- For each class a powerpoint will be available on Ufora.

#### **Study material**

None

#### **References**

#### **Course content-related study coaching**

Individual coaching, office hours

#### **Assessment moments**

end-of-term assessment

#### **Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period**

Written assessment

#### **Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period**

Written assessment

#### **Examination methods in case of permanent assessment**

Participation

#### **Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment**

examination during the second examination period is possible

#### **Extra information on the examination methods**

Exchange students will receive a list of literature in English, which will be examined orally after appointment.

#### **Calculation of the examination mark**

100% periodical

#### **Facilities for Working Students**

1. Student attendance during educational activities is mandatory
  2. Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
  3. Feedback can be given by email or during an appointment during office hours
- For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy

