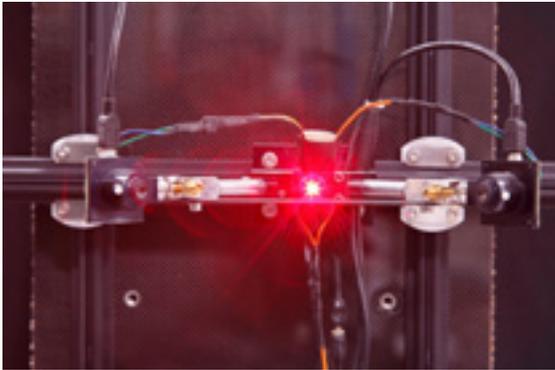




FACTVM
FOVNDATION
FOR DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY
IN CONSERVATION



Connections

27-05-2013

This week I'm going to Bologna to visit the new office and to see the work of the Factum Arte team. Most visible are Pedro Miró and Bianca Marchioro who are on the front of the basilica of San Petronio every evening, under the shrouded scaffolding (evening because of the vibration of the visitors below during the day) - recording the great door. I say most visible - in fact they are invisible under their shrouds so I should say, most immediate. This is work that was envisaged in 2011 where white light scanning was successfully demonstrated on the statue of Saint Petronius and the present project has resulted from that. The three great doors, with the vast and magnificent porta magna in the centre, carved around 1430-45 are the immediate focus. There are a number of other projects being managed by Factum Bologna and we expect Greg Dupond, who is the man on the spot - to be very busy. This will be the base for some of the Foundation's work as well and we are very excited about what is happening and the connections that Bologna will bring and enhance.

Our connections to others with similar interests in the skills and techniques used in conservation and restoration are extremely important. Digital technology is the core of everything we do - and it brings us in contact with so many materials and processes as we can record and we can mediate and we can interpret but alongside that are the artisanal skills that are key to understanding the nature and substance of what we are recording. A few days ago the Fundação Ricardo do Espirito Santo Silva in Lisbon invited us to visit to see their extensive workshops and teaching facilities- ceramic work, textiles, woodwork, painting, printing, paper making - as well as the marvellous Palácio Azurara. This will be a very fine experience and will help us link with yet another important actor in conservation - we're looking forward to this and will report back.

This does highlight the issue of connection - we don't want to be exclusive - we are entirely inclusive and want to share what we do. We want to give or loan scanners where they can be best used and can make a difference - we want to let people use and understand what we have discovered and developed and we want to teach and advise where we can add so that more work will be done. It is not a process of capture for ownership - it is just the opposite - we want to help and foster interest in and the use of the available technologies and techniques to preserve and conserve our heritage for everyone.

The work on the porta magna is going on in Bologna but the learning and development that got Pedro and Bianca up on the scaffold with the recording equipment is as important - each project advances our knowledge and each association increases our awareness of skills and materials. Working with others not only makes the Foundation's work effective it also makes it exciting.