

## Recording Dionisy's frescoes at the Ferapontov Monastery

From the 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> of October 2016 Factum Foundation for Digital Technology in Conservation, in partnership with the Ziyavudin Magomedov Charitable Peri Foundation, will be taking part in a pilot project to record a section of the frescoes of Dionisy (ca. 1440–1502) at the Ferapontov Monastery (Vologda region, Russian Federation). Factum and the Peri Foundation will be consulting with academics and restorers on site to understand what is needed from the documentation. A team from Factum will be joined by Shamil Gadzhidadaev and Gennady Viktorov, two young Dagestani photographers who trained at Factum in April 2016 and who also participated in the recent recording of the mosque at Kala-Koreysh (Dagestan). The work undertaken by Factum and the Peri Foundation is focussed on building frameworks for the sustainable recording of cultural heritage by local communities. For this purpose, on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October, the team will be giving a presentation aimed at encouraging young photographers from the Vologda region to take part in a second recording session in Spring 2017.



*Andrei Nikiforov (left) talking about Dionisy's frescoes with Adam Lowe, founder of Factum, during a trip to Ferapontov in August 2016*

The monastery, a UNESCO world heritage site, is considered one of the best examples of late 15<sup>th</sup> century Russian monastic architecture. The frescoes constitute the most complete surviving body of work of the icon-painter Dionisy, the greatest post-Byzantine Russian artist after Andrei Rublev. They are in the Cathedral of the Nativity of the Virgin – the oldest building in the monastery complex and one of the oldest stone churches in the region – creating an intense feeling of light and space within the small church. Painted over a period of two months in 1502, the frescoes are dated by inscription on the arch of the northern entrance to the church, which also identifies the creators as Dionisy and his two sons.

During the four-day session in October, the 3D form of the interior of the church will be recorded using a FARO long-range laser scanner. A section of the western wall – one of the more damaged areas in the Cathedral – will be scanned at the highest possible resolution using panoramic photography and/or photogrammetry. The fifty-two circular geometric patterns on the lower section of the walls, along with one of the icons from the iconostasis, currently in a small museum within the monastery complex, will also be recorded in October. The data gathered in the pilot project will be presented in late 2016.

**Factum Foundation for Digital Technology in Conservation** was founded in Madrid in 2009 as a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to demonstrating the importance of documenting and studying cultural heritage through the development and use of high-resolution recording and re-materialization techniques. The Foundation is committed to the dissemination of our recording methods within local communities, as well as to promoting public access to the data. For more information on Factum Foundation visit <http://www.factumfoundation.org/en/inicio>

The **Ziyavudin Magomedov Charitable Peri Foundation** based in Moscow and Makhachkala is dedicated to creating opportunities for young people in Dagestan and the Russian Federation in digital technology and social entrepreneurship. A part of their work lies within the spheres of cultural preservation and documentation, providing the education and equipment necessary for talented youth to participate in the conservation of the cultural heritage of their region. For more information on the Peri Foundation visit <http://peri-foundation.com/en/about-fund/mission-and-strategy.html>