



FACTVM FOVNDATION

FOR DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY
IN CONSERVATION



Reflection

19-12-2013

It's a traditional activity at the end of a year to review, reflect - and then look forward.

2013 has been a year of transformation at the Foundation in many ways - not least, it now has its own space - albeit as yet un-adorned with the wonders that are to be hung on its walls and placed carefully to divert and interest visitors. The space is within the new workshops of Factum Arte and it is exceedingly hard to describe these without reference to a medieval artist's workshop - but with computer aided designers and digitally controlled routers and high resolution scanners taking the place of some more recognisably artisanal objects and processes. But the people in all the workshops are artisans just the same. I wrote in August this year (when the move was approaching) about Dürer and digital mediation and the idea of workshops - what we now have is magical, Dürer would be jealous. This is the most visible change at the Foundation

But more has happened. We have just received permission from the Minister for Antiquities in Egypt to install the facsimile of Tutankhamun's burial chamber next to the Carter House in the Valley of the Kings - where work starts now and will, we hope be completed by April 2014. The facsimile will be installed underground with an exhibition space helping visitors understand just how important this project is to the preservation of the original - and to the more general understanding of what sustainable tourism can do to save our heritage.

The re-unification of the Polittico Griffoni is over half way now - with truly amazing scans and results from paintings in, among others, the National Gallery, the Vatican Pinacoteca and the Collezione Vittorio Cini. Plans and schedules are in place for the rest. John Tchalenko's film about hand/eye coordination was eagerly discussed at the October gallery - a haven in London. A wonderful day was spent in Windsor Great Park at the Queen's Collection, scanning and Alex has just returned from Medina and Beirut. The Lucida scanner, in whose workshop the header image above was taken, is now in a programme of serial production - beta testing is over. We now have a scanner inspired by - and to inspire - genius. As these scanners start to be sent around the world our work will really begin.

That's the reflection - and, by the way, reflection is in abundance in the print room where Rafa is finishing the most wonderful mirror based works for American contemporary artist Paula Crown. But the new year looms - the immediate focus is installation in Luxor but so much is planned in so many places it would make Opinion become Worklist or geography lesson.

What is key is that we are finding resonance and we are finding recognition for the important work we are doing. There are objects and sites all over the world that demand recording - demand it because it must be done - it is a duty that the Foundation represents, to use the technology that has been developed in our generation to benefit those that are to come..... and in the meantime enjoy the wonderful outputs that technology brings us now. We want more and more people to participate in that enjoyment and while doing so, to help us fulfil our mission.