

Table of Contents:

- ✓ Welcome
- ✓ Regenerate!
- ✓ Spark Sessions
- ✓ From Bits to Ink – Preserving and Printing Digital-Based Photographic Works
- ✓ 31 October 2025: Symposium Future for Polychromy
- ✓ 27 June 2025: Spark Session with Boukje Cnossen, Mareike Opeña and Gabriella Moretti
- ✓ 25 June 2025: The Heritage of Flavour
- ✓ 10 June 2025: Making Things Last
- ✓ 5 February 2025: PhD Defence Diāna Bērziņa
- ✓ 24 June 2025: PhD Defence Anna de Jong
- ✓ Introducing: Paul Stewens
- ✓ MACCH Visiting Researcher: Mareike Opeña
- ✓ Sociaal Historisch Centrum voor Limburg becomes "Tracé - Limburgs Samenlevingsarchief"
- ✓ New article by Livia Solaro & H. Konstantin Jänicke: Two Pieces of One Puzzle

Welcome

by [Claartje Rasterhoff](#)

Welcome to the 20th newsletter of the Maastricht Centre for Arts and Culture, Conservation and Heritage (MACCH). MACCH is a transdisciplinary research centre that brings together economic, legal, (art) historical, philosophical, sociological and practical expertise in the fields of arts, culture and heritage.

In this newsletter we look back at the wonderful symposium Regenerate! (20-21 March 2025), celebrating the 10 year anniversary of MACCH, and the re-launch of the Future Materials Lab at the Jan van Eyck Academy.

And there is more to celebrate! The Centre for the Social History of Limburg (SHCL) has recently changed its name into '[Tracé – Limburg Samenlevingsarchief](#)'. The new name and subtitle emphasizes the core of Tracé's work: preserving, unlocking, sharing, and studying archives that document Limburg society in all its diversity and dynamism.

Another highlight was the succesful PhD defense by Diāna Bērziņa on her thesis: "Criminogenic Objects, Senses, and Atmospheres in Criminology: Exploring Human-Object Relationships in Art Markets. By focusing on the interplay between humans, objects, and atmospheres, Bērziņa provides fresh insights into the material and sensorial dimensions of crime, offering a more comprehensive perspective on the complexities of illicit markets.

And there is more to come, so please be invited to our June events. From a field lecture & dinner by Natoora founder Franco Fubini to an afternoon with Boukje Cnossen, Professor for Entrepreneurship, Organization, and Culture at Leuphana University, please come and join us. We're looking forward to seeing you at one of our events. Or if you'd like to connect and co-organize, please let us know.

On behalf of the MACCH steering committee,
Claartje Rasterhoff (managing director)



Regenerate! A 2-day event on the eco-systemic turn in material research and heritage practices

Regenerate!

On 20–21 March 2025, the annual MACCH Symposium marked a milestone: the **10th anniversary of the Maastricht Centre for Arts and Culture, Conservation and Heritage (MACCH)**. Co-organised for the first time with the Jan van Eyck Academy, this special edition also celebrated the re-launch of the Future Materials Lab.

Under the theme **Regenerate!**, the symposium brought together artists, designers, makers, thinkers, and researchers to reimagine the future of art and heritage from a material perspective. Participants explored how sustainable material choices can shape the way we create, conserve, and connect.

From hands-on workshops with fungi-based inks and “piss soap,” to deep intergenerational dialogues around traditional textile practices, the event challenged assumptions and sparked new ideas. Panels tackled urgent issues like PFAS “forever chemicals,” the ethics of chemical fertilisers, and the rematerialisation of lost artefacts. Together, we asked:

- How can materials act as agents of cultural, environmental, and artistic resilience?
- What new models of (co-)creation, ownership, and policy can emerge from shifts in material thinking?

The symposium featured dynamic lectures, demonstrations, and conversations, including powerful keynotes from Prof. Boukje Cnossen and world-renowned anthropologist Tim Ingold. With contributions from partners Maastricht Experimental Research In and through the Arts Network (MERIAN) and Zuyd Hogeschool, the event fostered shared responsibility, collective action, and community engagement—

both outcomes of and pillars for regenerative artistic and conservation practices.

For the full program please see: <https://www.janvaneyck.nl/calendar/regenerate>.

For a review by Kiki Mertens in Metropolis M please see: <https://metropolism.com/nl/recensie/kijken-met-de-ogen-van-de-wind-tim-ingolds-pleidooi-voor-de-niet-tijdgebonden-blik-en-andere-momenten-van-hoop-tijdens-regenerate-op-de-jan-van-eyck-academie/>

Spark Sessions

This spring we had the pleasure of hosting two MACCH Spark Sessions. In January we organised a special Spark Session together with the Law & Popular Culture Research Network. Visiting scholar Gregory Zinman presented his work titled, Public Scenes and “Fugitive Video”: Art in 1980s NYC Nightclubs. [Gregory Zinman](#) is an associate professor in the Department of Film and Media at Emory University and the curator of [Off The Wall @ 725 Ponce](#), a public screening program in Atlanta. Greg’s presentation shared the untold history of video art in New York City nightclubs of the 1980s. Shaped by communal practice, fueled by narcotics, and backed by the mob, clubs provided a radically different milieu than the art world for the making, exhibition, and reception of video art. This history allows us to shift our attention from media objects to an examination of publics, contexts, spaces, and bodies where art-making takes place; that asks us to consider histories of experience, pleasure, intoxication, and sociality at society’s margins; and that demands that we write histories of vibrant and broad communities, and not just heroic individuals. In his engaging talk Greg took us on a tour in the history of NYC nightclubs, and beautifully laid out the complex media historical work that goes into a project like this.

In May we had the pleasure of hosting Inge Römgens at the MERIAN Art-Science Lab. Inge Römgens works as Assistant Professor at University College Maastricht (UCM). She researches practices of artistic research and education. In her PhD project, *The Troubled Suitcase*, taking seriously collaborative artistic research practices, she observed how artistic research was done, defined and discussed in teams where artists and academics tried to collaborate. In the talk *Navigating (seemingly) incompatible research practice through writing* Inge introduced us to the experimental approach she developed during her PhD project. To explicate the different situated perspectives that she found in her fieldwork she calibrated an experimental writing practice informed by performance writing and theatre practices. In her talk she introduced her work and read (or performed) some of her texts, illustrating and problematizing her attempt at writing a story that is simultaneously imaginative and analytical and includes various forms of dialogue (in different languages). The promises of hybridity, innovation and new (perspectives on) knowledge make artistic research exciting. However, hybridity also means trouble. It unravels (tacit) assumptions and conventions, disturbing the peace at conventional (art or academic) institutions, requiring critical reflection on why things are organized the way they are and ‘what if’ they would be otherwise. Explicating the different situated perspectives in an artistic research project, and what they are based on, Inge showed, is crucial, but is not self-evident.

STEDELIJK

MUSEUM

FROM

TO

BITS

INK

PRESERVING AND
PRINTING DIGITAL-BASED
PHOTOGRAPHIC ARTWORKS

Monica Marchesi

AMSTERDAM

From Bits to Ink – Preserving and Printing Digital-Based Photographic Works

19 June 2025 3pm (Online)

On June 19, MACCH affiliated researcher Vivian van Saaze will contribute to the an upcoming INCCA Talk, where conservator Monica Marchesi, will present a newly developed guidelines titled “From Bits to Ink – Preserving and Printing Digital-Based Photographic Works” aimed at supporting the conservation community.

As more artists deliver their photographic works in digital formats, museums increasingly acquire digital files rather than physical prints—along with the rights to produce them for exhibition. This shift introduces complex challenges related to acquisition, conservation, authorship, and material authenticity.

Developed as part of the NWO Museum Grant project, “[Print on Demand. Printing Digital Artworks through a Collaborative Mode of Production](#)”, this guideline offers clear and accessible recommendations for museum professionals—particularly those responsible for the acquisition, conservation and presentation of digital-based photography. It provides a structured approach to managing the translation of a digital file into a photographic print, ensuring thoughtful decision-making from acquisition to (re)printing. Monica Marchesi, Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, in conversation with Vivian van Saaze, Maastricht University & Dutch Heritage Agency.

For more information and register for the online Talk, see [here](#).

[Read more](#)



31 October 2025: Symposium Future for Polychromy

Organized by SRAL - the conservation
institute

This symposium is the midterm meeting of the Dutch PoCo Project at SRAL (2024-2027). A representative selection of international speakers will talk about state-of-the-art research on polychromy in Europe and we will present the PoCo project.

[Read more](#)



27 June 2025: Spark Session with Boukje Cnossen, Mareike Opeña and Gabriella Moretti

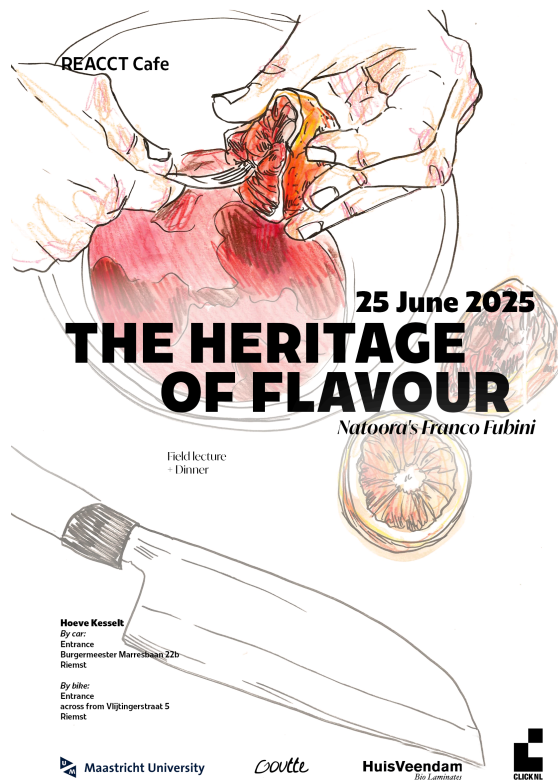
In this session prof. Boukje Cnossen will engage in a conversation with visiting PhD researchers Gabriella Moretti and Mareike Opeña. Mareike's research project focuses on practices in privately owned conservation studios in New York City, where most of their clients are part of the contemporary art market. Gabriella is writing her thesis on identifying, describing and analyzing the motivations for which the non-binding Washington Principles are interpreted and applied by the restitution departments at global auction houses.

Boukje Cnossen is Professor for Entrepreneurship, Organization, and Culture at Leuphana University in Lüneburg, Germany. Her research focuses on organizing practices in the arts and other creative settings, with specific interest in the role of space and materiality in bringing new social collectives into being.

Boukje gave one of the keynotes at the last MACCH symposium Regenerate! and spoke about the different understandings of materiality in the context of the organisation of artistic practices. Mobilising relational ontologies, she put forward an understanding of materiality as it contributes to the legitimization of artistic practice in different ways.

Location: The Plant (FASOs)

Please register by sending a message to macch@maastrichtuniversity.nl



25 June 2025: The Heritage of Flavour

A Feld Lecture by Franco Fubini

Join us for an inspiring evening with Franco Fubini, founder and CEO of Natoora, the high-end produce market reshaping the way we eat. Natoora's regenerative farm in Cornwall, proves that sustainability, flavour and regenerative craftsmanship can go hand in hand.

Fubini will share insights from his book *In Search of the Perfect Peach. Why flavour holds the answer to fixing our food system*. Join in a conversation on how flavour is more than just taste – it's a connection to farmers, a reflection of our environment and a crucial measure of our food system's health.

The event is organised by the [Regenerative Farmers Lab](#) and part of the MACCH affiliated [REACT](#) (Research, Education and Action Lab into Collective and Circular Transformation) project.

Please register by sending a message to macch@maastrichtuniversity.nl

10 June 2025: Making Things Last

Organizers: Lauren Wagner, Mark Thomas Young, Jérôme Denis, Claartje Rasterhoff, Christian Ernten, Léna Silberzahn, Joma Ronden

Maintenance studies is an emerging field of Science and Technology Studies (STS), which connects to many issues from the construction of buildings, to the maintenance of city streets, to the struggle for the 'right to repair', to the problem of dying and neglected software. Making Things Last - a workshop on maintenance, care and repair aims to bring together scholars from STS with other disciplines where understanding the work that goes into maintaining and reusing materials, objects, and technologies is emerging with more force, including cultural studies, architecture, and urban studies. We



are prompted to organize this workshop now because we are fundamentally curious to learn about each other's insights in diverse domains that intersect in the problem, as defined by Jérôme Denis and David Pointille (2023), of 'making things last'. Alongside the cluster of participants and organizers based at UM, we will invite 15 experts based in Europe as participants. These include the co-organizers Jérôme Denis (Univ Paris - École des Mines) and Mark Thomas Young (Univ Oslo), along with artists working with repair and regeneration and scholars from STS, urban geography, cultural studies, and other areas where new work on maintenance, care and repair is emerging.

'Criminogenic Objects, Senses, and Atmospheres in Criminology: Exploring Human-Object Relationships in Art Markets.'

5 February 2025: PhD Defence Diāna Bērziņa

On 5th February, MACCH-affiliated researcher Diāna Bērziņa successfully defended her thesis, 'Criminogenic Objects, Senses, and Atmospheres in Criminology: Exploring Human-Object Relationships in Art Markets.' Her supervisors were Dr. Donna Yates and Prof. Dr. Simon Mackenzie.

[Read more](#)

"Security Narratives, Culture, and EU Law"

24 June 2025: PhD Defence Anna de Jong

What happens when we start thinking of something as a threat to our security? Most likely, we will change the way we interact with it, putting in place new policies or rules to hopefully reduce the perceived threat. But does this really happen in practice, and if it does, what does it look like, especially when viewed through a legal lens? And just as important, what might be some of the (legal) consequences?

In her research Anna de Jong tackled these questions. She did so by examining what happened after the 'security narrative' emerged of cultural goods being used by a.o. ISIS to fund terrorism and organised crime to launder money. Her research makes clear that such security narratives, in which a topic is (suddenly) presented as immediate threat to our security, come with significant legal, political, and practical consequences. Her research therefore serves as an



Diāna Bērziņa



Anna de Jong

important warning against hasty (legal) decision-making in times of apparent threat.

[Read more](#)



Introducing: Paul Stewens

Paul P. Stewens is a PhD candidate with the Faculty of Law's Department of Criminal Law and Criminology. His doctoral research focuses on the legal regulation of the extraction, ownership, and transfer of palaeontological objects, and how they challenge legal classification due to their ambiguous nature.

As one of the few experts in the field, his interdisciplinary work has appeared in both science and law journals. Outlets such as *Science* and *The Economist* have featured his research. Paul holds a Master in International Law from the Geneva Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies and has been actively involved in several high-profile fossil restitution controversies and initiatives to counteract harmful research practices in palaeontology.



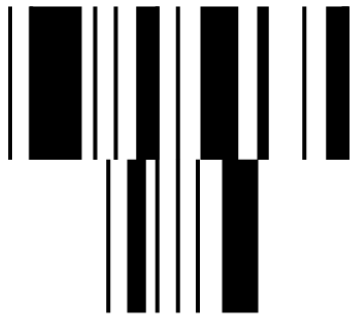
MACCH Visiting Researcher: Mareike Opeña

Mareike Opeña, an external PhD candidate at FASoS, is visiting MACCH this summer. Her research project focuses on practices in privately owned conservation studios in New York City, where most of their clients are part of the contemporary art market.

As an experienced practitioner of conservation within the contemporary art market, Mareike investigates decision-making processes and ethical considerations in the daily lives of conservators in private practice, for whom the task is to preserve both cultural and monetary values of artworks for sale, usually in transition of ownership, offered by commercial art institutions like galleries, art agencies, or auction houses.

During her research period here in Maastricht, she is working on an investigation into the historical co-shaping of the public museum as a collecting

institution for cultural heritage and conservation as a practice of prolonging the life-expectancy of cultural heritage in a way that makes it 'more satisfying to more people' (Muñoz-Viñas 2023: 65). One of the tensions conservators in private practice often face in their decision-making is a navigation between their liability towards both, the individual (paying) client and the larger public. This dilemma seems rooted in the simultaneous emergence of the museum and the conservation profession.



Tracé

Limburgs

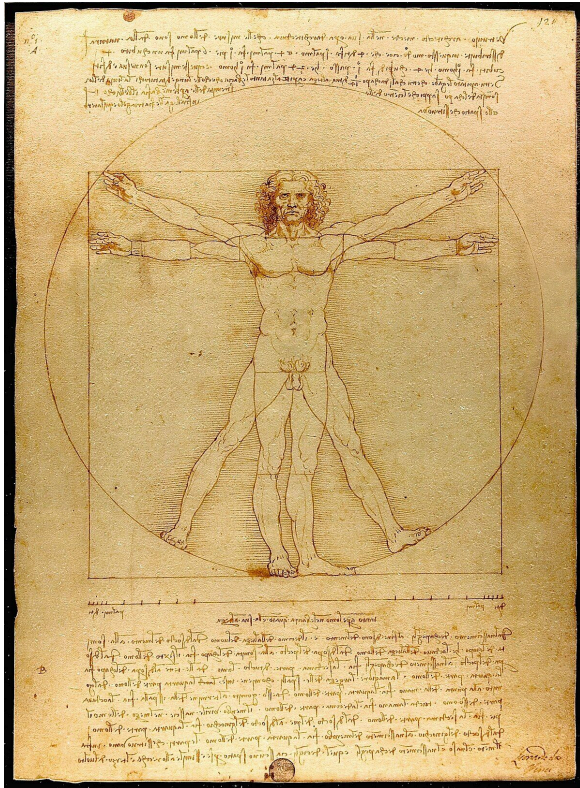
Samenlevingsarchief

Sociaal Historisch Centrum voor Limburg becomes "Tracé - Limburgs Samenlevingsarchief"

The Centre for the Social History of Limburg (SHCL) has recently changed its name into '[Tracé - Limburg Samenlevingsarchief](#)'.

With the new name also come a new logo and visual identity. The new name and subtitle emphasizes the core of Tracé's work: preserving, unlocking, sharing, and studying archives that document Limburg society in all its diversity and dynamism.

They are still looking for an appealing translation in English. Let them know if you have a good idea!



New article by Livia Solaro & H. Konstantin Jänicke: Two Pieces of One Puzzle

Italy and Germany Clash Over the Transnational Reach of Cultural Heritage Law Encroaching Upon the Public Domain (Harvard International Law Journal)

MACCH affiliated researchers Livia Solaro and Konstantin Jänicke recently published an analysis of two court rulings on reproduction of artworks in the famous Ravensburger puzzles.

Read more



Maastricht University

MACCH is a joint effort of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, the Faculty of Law, the School of Business and Economics, the Faculty of Science and Engineering, Tracé - Limburgs Samenlevingsarchief, and the Stichting Restauratie Atelier Limburg (SRAL).

The newsletter is issued twice a year with information on MACCH activities and other related news. For more information about MACCH, please visit our website www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/macch or contact: [Clartje Rasterhoff](mailto:Clartje.Rasterhoff).

MACCH would like to thank the authors for their contributions.

You receive this newsletter because you have participated in one of MACCH's meetings or have otherwise demonstrated an interest in the centre's activities. Feel free to share the newsletter with others. If you do not wish to receive the newsletter, please send an email to macch@maastrichtuniversity.nl



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