

Ancient plaster: casting light on a forgotten sculptural material

**Monday 6 - Tuesday 7 April 2020
The British Academy, London**

Convenors:

Emma Payne, King's College London

Abbey Ellis, University of Leicester/Ashmolean Museum

Will Wootton, King's College London



The British Academy

Day 1: Monday 6 April 2020

09:00 *Registration and refreshments*

09:25 Welcome

Session 1: The material of plaster and its working properties

Chair: Will Wootton (King's College London)

09:30 Emma Payne (King's College London)
The material of plaster and overview of the main finds from antiquity

10:00 Farhad Fabian Burg (Gipsformerei der Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Germany)
Plaster piece-moulding: the sublime art of casting with plaster

10:40 *Refreshments*

11:00 Martin Hanson (Wimbledon College of Art)
Clare Venables (Minerva Stone Conservation)
Practical session including demonstrations of two techniques: modelling and life-casting

12:40 *Lunch*

Session 2: Ancient plaster objects

Chair: Abbey Ellis (University of Leicester/Ashmolean Museum)

13:45 Kathryn Tubb (University College London)
Thoughts on the disposition of the 1983 cache of plaster figures from 'Ain Ghazal

14:15 Dimitri Laboury (University of Liège, Belgium)
In the workshop of an ancient Egyptian sculptor

14:45 *Refreshments*

Session 3: Making sculpture – plaster and related materials

Chair: Amanda Claridge (Royal Holloway, University of London)

15:15 Thomas Merrett (City & Guilds of London Art School)
Emma Payne (King's College London)
Using plaster models to make marble sculptures

15:45 Rachel Mairs (University of Reading)
Plaster casts and the transmission of iconography: a Central Asian perspective

- 16:15 Kenneth Lapatin (J. Paul Getty Museum, USA)
The material behind the masterpiece: plaster and the production
of chryselephantine statues
- 16:45 Amanda Claridge (Royal Holloway, University of London)
Discussion and end of day comments
- 17:00 End of first day of conference

Day 2: Tuesday 7 April 2020

09:30 *Registration and refreshments*

Session 4: Cast for display?

Chair: Will Wootton (King's College London)

09:45 Amanda Claridge (Royal Holloway, University of London)
The Baiae casts in context

10:15 Jane Fejfer (University of Copenhagen, Denmark)

10:45 *Refreshments*

11:15 Eckart Marchand (The Warburg Institute/International
Research Group 'Bilderfahrzeuge')
Standing in for the final work: the use of full-scale models in
early modern Europe

11:45 Will Wootton (King's College London)
Amanda Claridge (Royal Holloway, University of London)
Jane Fejfer (University of Copenhagen, Denmark)
Dimitri Laboury (University of Liège, Belgium)
Kenneth Lapatin (J. Paul Getty Museum, USA)
Rachel Mairs (University of Reading)
Eckart Marchand (The Warburg Institute/International
Research Group 'Bilderfahrzeuge')
Panel discussion exploring plaster objects surviving from the
Greek and Roman periods

12:30 *Lunch*

Session 5: Life-casting

Chair: Kenneth Lapatin (J. Paul Getty Museum, USA)

13:30 Alexander Lumsden (Bronze Age Foundry)
The role of plaster in bronze casting from antiquity to the
present day

14:00 Nigel Konstam (Verrocchio Arts Centre, Italy)
The evidence for life-casting in ancient Greek sculpture

14:30 Tonny Beentjes (University of Amsterdam, Netherlands)
Casting from life in 16th-19th century sculpture

15:00 *Refreshments*

15:15 Kenneth Lapatin (J. Paul Getty Museum, USA)
Tonny Beentjes (University of Amsterdam, Netherlands)
Jane Fejfer (University of Copenhagen, Denmark)
Nigel Konstam (Verrocchio Arts Centre, Italy)

Alexander Lumsden (Bronze Age Foundry)
Panel discussion on the role of life-casting in antiquity

Session 6: The future – discussion of the post-antique treatment of plaster; why it has been neglected and often considered inauthentic

Chair: Emma Payne (King's College London)

- 15:45 Abbey Ellis (University of Leicester/Ashmolean Museum)
- 16:15 Chris Dorsett (Northumbria University)
Re-treading the art school corridor to 'Cast Contemporaries'
- 16:45 Will Wootton (King's College London)
Discussion and end of day comments
- 17:00 End of the conference