



Università
Ca' Foscari
Venezia

**Dipartimento
di Scienze Molecolari
e Nanosistemi**

IL DIPARTIMENTO DI SCIENZE MOLECOLARI E NANOSISTEMI
ORGANIZZA L'INCONTRO SCIENTIFICO :

Ancient hand-colored photographs: investigations between science and art

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**The story behind the tinted photographs
from the Yokohama School (1868-1912)**

Prof. Janka Krizanova

Academy of Fine Arts & Design of Bratislava, Slovakia

**Hand-colored Photographs:
History, Technology, Identification of
Materials**

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Dalle ore 14 alle ore 16, Aula D, edificio ZETA
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L'organizzatore
Prof. Paolo Ugo



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The story behind the tinted photographs from the Yokohama School (1868-1912).

Abstract: The so-called Yokohama Shashin or Yokohama-style photographs are hand-colored photographic prints that were commercially produced during the Meiji Period (1868-1912) in the photographic studios of Japan's major treaty ports where Westerners worked alongside native Japanese artists. Hand coloring of photographs became an art form in Japan in the 1860s and the Italian-British photographer Felice Beato was the first to employ this technique on a large scale. Portraits, landscapes and genre scenes of everyday life were exquisitely painted by skilled Japanese craftsmen trained in the art of Ukiyo-e woodblock printing. Often collected in richly decorated lacquered albums, these photographs are particularly interesting from the point of view of conservation, as well as historic and scientific research. This talk will introduce the public to the approach of a professional photograph conservator who is particularly concerned with the material composition of photographs and artworks.

Sandra M. Petrillo was awarded an MA in Art History from the University of Rome and she obtained an MA in Art Conservation, with a specialization in Photography, from the Institut National du Patrimoine of Paris. Since 1996 she has worked as a professional conservator in private practice in France, Luxembourg and the USA. Her company, the SMPhoto Conservation Studio, founded in Italy in 2010, is dedicated to the conservation and preservation of historic and fine art photographs. From 2012 to 2015 she was the Italian partner in the Daguerreobase Project with a role as content provider, responsible for networking and dissemination of the project, and as the editor of the EDA's online publication "Daguerreotype Journal".

Hand-colored Photographs History, Technology, Identification of Materials

Abstract: This talk is focused on the fascinating history of hand-coloring, which was adopted for many different photographic processes, starting with the first experimental techniques implemented on daguerreotypes. Various examples of photographic objects to which coloring was applied will be examined, such as photographs on canvas, crayon portraits, lantern slides, etc. Tinting methods will be discussed, as well as the issue of the stability of colorants and pigments when exposed to light.

After addressing these technical and aesthetic issues, the talk will also examine the use of non-destructive analytical techniques to provide important information in order to support the ongoing research into the development of a modern methodology for the long-term storage, exhibition and conservation of unique and rare hand colored photographs that are preserved in collections and archives.

Janka Krizanova Since January 2017 Janka Krizanova has been the head of the conservation and restoration department at the Academy of Fine Arts & Design (AFAD) of Bratislava, Slovakia. In August 2016 she completed a three-year research scholarship in Photograph Conservation at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, focusing on the examination, characterization, and preservation of the Diane Arbus archive. In May 2013 Janka completed her PhD thesis entitled "Hand-colored Photographs: History, Identification and Research" at the AFAD with the cooperation of The Getty Conservation Institute (GCI).