

# CALL FOR PAPERS

The Conservation Department  
Die Neue Sammlung – The Design Museum  
is pleased to announce its ninth edition of the **FUTURE TALKS** conference series:

## **FUTURE TALKS 025**

FROM FAILURE TO SUCCESS  
INNOVATIVE CASE STUDIES IN THE CONSERVATION OF THE MODERN

### **TIMEFRAME**

November 05- 07, 2025

### **LOCATION**

Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich, Germany

### **SUBMISSION**

The deadline for submission of abstracts is February 28, 2025

### **TOPIC**

16 years, eight conferences and a good 230 lectures after the first **FUTURE TALKS** conference in 2009, we would like to dedicate the **FUTURE TALKS 025** conference to an aspect that is directly linked to the evolution of human culture: Innovation through mistakes.

In our culture, especially in the working environment of conservators and conservation scientists, mistakes are often associated with professional failure. This is understandable, as in the worst case this can lead to the loss of irretrievable cultural assets. What is crucial in this context, however, is how to deal with failure.

Nevertheless mistakes and failures have always been an integral part of innovative scientific research. The decisive factor is the acceptance of being able to make mistakes and the willingness and motivation to share and learn from them, develop improvements and draw the right conclusions.

While it is still common practice at conferences and in professional exchange to emphasize only the successful and effective case studies, the frank dialogue has a much greater, indeed almost inexhaustible potential for innovation and professional progress in our field.

The **FUTURE TALKS** offer both the professional and the necessary protected framework for discussing and advancing relevant projects.

As usual the **FUTURE TALKS 025** are taking a closer look at outstanding research projects on the conservation of the modern that have never been presented and published before.

Due to the great demand and the positive response to our last **FUTURE TALKS 023** conference, we are planning a panel on the topic of Cold Cases. Relevant contributions are very welcome.

To foster lively and interdisciplinary dialogue we invite submissions from conservators, conservation scientists, designers, architects, artists, engineers and producers. Recent advances in this field, addressing technology, design and production processes, new and innovative treatment and analysis methods as well as current conservation research and ongoing projects are very welcome.

As we are aiming to create a dynamic event, the format of the presentations need not be a plenary talk. Ideas for workshops and panel discussions are of interest.

## APPLICATION

To apply for a presentation at **FUTURE TALKS 025**, the following topics are of relevance:

### Conservation / Restoration

- Retrospective insights into former conservation and restoration treatments.
- Impact of failures
- How to handle / conserve relatively unknown or innovative / advanced materials
- Technological studies and object-related research
- The degradation of serial and non-serial materials and its conservation
- The degradation of modern materials and its conservation
- Case studies in the field of restoration of modern and contemporary objects and works of art
- Innovative conservation strategies and new ways to treat modern materials
- New conservation materials and tools
- Innovative documentation techniques
- Innovative conservation practices
- Failure guides (application in industry and conservation)
- The implementation of interdisciplinary approach
- Critical analysis of professional approach
- Visions and perspectives in the conservation of modern materials  
(Where do we come from – where do we go to?)

### Analytical Research

- Impact of failures at plastic sampling
- Innovative research and investigative methods on materials, technologies, degradation and conservation
- New ways to identify modern materials
- Strategies of characterisation and identification
- The implementation of interdisciplinary approach
- How about looking at cold cases with modified / new / improved methods?

### Production and Design

- How do design and / or production failures effect life time experience / use and degradation?
- Application of new materials and technologies in the production of design and contemporary art (in their time)
- Exceptional use of relatively unknown or innovative / advanced materials
- The innovative use of materials
- Intelligent materials
- The use of plastics in various fields of human culture
- Recycled plastics and bioplastics
- Processing of materials and manufacturing techniques
- New and trendsetting materials in the production of design objects
- Unusual design concepts
- Visions in design
- What can we learn from former products and materials?
- What is the role of history of design and material in the design process of today?

## HOW TO APPLY?

There are two ways to get involved, by either presenting a formal paper or submitting a poster.

Preference for oral presentation will be given to papers dealing with current research. Participation from students and professionals from allied fields is highly encouraged.

An abstract needs to be submitted for both options and should include:

- + The full title of the paper
- + Full names, postal addresses and e-mail address of the contact author
- + A summary of the paper (between 400 and 600 words)
- + Biographies of authors (max. 100 words)
- + Graphs, pictures, tables or references should not be included
- + Papers for the conference should be tailored to a 25-minute presentation time frame
- + All works submitted must be original and not have been published elsewhere
- + The language of the symposium and proceedings will be in English
- + **The deadline for submission of abstracts is February 28, 2025**
- + Please send your ideas for a contribution to: [tim.bechthold@die-neue-sammlung.de](mailto:tim.bechthold@die-neue-sammlung.de)

A selection committee will review the abstracts and notify authors by mid-March, 2025.

The presentations (lectures / posters) will be published at the end of 2027 at the **FUTURE TALKS 027** conference in the form of post prints. Authors will be required to submit a final paper to the organizers at the **FUTURE TALKS 025** conference.

The submitted papers for publication must be proof-read by a native English speaker. The papers will be subject to a peer review and an editing process.

The conference and associated post prints will be in English.

The detailed conference program and further information about fees and registration will be posted beginning of April, 2025.

## CONTACT

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**FUTURE TALKS  
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DIE NEUE SAMMLUNG  
THE DESIGN MUSEUM**

## **BACKGROUND**

Since the beginning of industrialization, the increasing development of new materials and the associated innovative forms of technology have had an ever greater influence on the design of goods and works of art. To this day, materials are designed, modified and adapted to the needs of the market and the environment.

Conservators who are confronted with cultural assets of the modern age must recognize and interpret these complex relationships in order to gain an appropriate understanding of the ageing processes and thus define suitable conservation methods and correspondingly adequate treatment strategies. In this context, the interdisciplinary dialog with conservation scientists, engineers, designers and producers represents a central tool for understanding modernity.

In this context, the **FUTURE TALKS** have been offering an international, discursive platform for innovative case studies every two years since 2009. The focus of this conference series is on the application, restoration and analysis of modern materials and technologies in design and the visual arts. In order to increase the proportion of practice-relevant contributions, a special focus is placed on exemplary case studies.

With more than 2000 participants from over 30 nations, the first eight conferences and the seven conference post prints published to date have generated an enthusiastic response and made the term **FUTURE TALKS** internationally synonymous with the preservation of modern materials.

**FUTURE TALKS** is internationally recognized as THE established forum for professional networking, interdisciplinary lectures, workshops and discussions on modern materials and technologies and their impact on the world of museums, galleries and private collections.

With a focus on an increasing number of interdisciplinary contributions related to technologies and modified analysis techniques, our aim is to optimize the decision-making process in the conservation of modern materials and to discursively guide and define possible avenues for active treatments.

The **FUTURE TALKS** help to sensitize the public to the fact that even industrially produced products are subject to a gradual degradation of material, which in the worst case can lead to a loss of our cultural identity and history.

## **ORGANIZER**

The conference series was initiated and is organized by the Conservation Department of Die Neue Sammlung - The Design Museum.

The Conservation Department has been focusing on the phenomenon of the ageing of modern materials for more than 20 years now. Through numerous conference papers, specialist publications, practical research projects and international teaching assignments (University College of London (UCL), Doha, Qatar, Technical University of Munich (TUM), Munich, State Academy of Fine Arts Stuttgart and Academy of Fine Arts, Vienna, Austria), the Conservation Department of Die Neue Sammlung is one of the world's leading institutions dealing with the ageing and restoration of modern materials in design.

## **TARGET GROUP**

In order to facilitate a lively and interdisciplinary dialog, the conference is aimed at conservators, conservation scientists, designers, architects, artists, curators, collectors, engineers and design and art producers.

## **VENUE**

Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich, Germany

## **DATE**

November 05 - 07, 2025

## **BOOKING**

The detailed conference program and further information on registration and fees will be posted beginning of April, 2025 – look for further announcements