



The Colours of the Prince

Conservation and Knowledge
in Qusayr 'Amra

International Conference

Rome 22 - 23 October 2014

Istituto Superiore per la Conservazione
ed il Restauro

The Colours of the Prince Conservation and Knowledge in Qusayr 'Amra

The complex of Qusayr 'Amra, built during the Umayyad period, in the 8th century AD, consists of a bath, a qasr (palace), a watchtower, an hydraulic system and other unexcavated infrastructures. The extensive cycle of wall paintings in the interior of the qasr is a unique testimony of early Islamic art. The paintings are extraordinary in their style and representations, and because they are largely preserved. For these reasons the site deserved its inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1985. Since 2010 the site is undergoing a thorough conservation process, which is a joint collaboration between the World Monuments Fund (WMF), the Jordanian Department of Antiquities (DoA) and the Italian Istituto Superiore per la Conservazione ed il Restauro (ISCR). The project targets simultaneously the building and its decorative features (in particular wall paintings), as well as the management of the site and its community-based preservation and enhancement.

The main objective of the conference is to present to the academic world and the public the outstanding results of the last conservation project of the monument. Particular attention will be addressed to the conservation work on the wall paintings that has revealed unprecedented aspects of these rare artistic representations, such as the vibrant colors of the decorations and unexpected details that shed new light on the interpretation of the subjects and the patron of the paintings. The two-days conference also aims to bring together scholars from different fields of study and implicate them in a discussion on the building and its decorations.

Wednesday, 22 October, 2014

9.00 WELCOME:

Gisella Capponi, Director of Istituto Superiore per la Conservazione e il Restauro

On. Dario Franceschini Minister for Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism, Italy

Antonia Pasqua Recchia, General Secretary - Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism, Italy

H.E. **Zaid Al Lozi**, Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in Italy

Uberto Vanni d'Archirafi, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary - Diplomatic Adviser to the Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism, Italy

Monther Dahash Jamhawi, Director-General of the Department of Antiquities, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Gaetano Palumbo, Program Director, World Monuments Fund

Stefano De Caro, Director of the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), Rome

Antonio Paolucci, Director of the Vatican Museums

10 .00 Introduction:
Giovanna De Palma, Director of the Wall Paintings Conservation Project (Archaeologist at the Istituto Superiore per la Conservazione e il Restauro (ISCR), Rome)

10.15-11 .00 Coffee break

CONSERVATION PROJECT AND RESULTS

Chair: **Carlo Birrozzi**, Director of the Department for Architectural and Environmental Properties in Molise Region, Italy

11 .00 **Maria Carolina Gaetani** and **Marie José Mano** (ISCR)
The Wall Paintings: A New Life. Execution Technique, Preservation Status, Conservation Methodology

11 .30 **Giuseppina Vigliano** (ISCR)
The preliminary analytical campaign

12 .00 **Fabio Morresi** and **Ulderico Santamaria** (Vatican Museums)
Analytical study of Qusayr 'Amra mural paintings: Constituent material, execution techniques and alteration products

12 .30 **Fabio Aramini** and **Carlo Cacace** (ISCR)
The contribution of the ISCR Physics Laboratory: microclimatic survey and multispectral analysis

13.15-14.30 Lunch Break

14 .30 **Asma Shhaltoug** (Department of Antiquities of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan) and **Alex Sarra** (Conservator Consultant - World Monuments Fund)
Conserving the external structure of the monument

15 .00 **Monther Dahash Jamhawi** (Director-General of the Department of Antiquities, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan), **Gaetano Palumbo** (World Monuments Fund) and **Angela Atzori** (Consultant-World Monuments Fund),
A Management Plan for Qusayr 'Amra

15 .30 **Paola Santopadre** (ISCR)
Analysis of glass tesserae from Qusayr 'Amra

16 .00-16 .15 Coffee break

16 .15 **Leena Mahmoud Mohammad al Bakkar** (Archaeological Museum of Irbid), **Francesca Mariani** (Conservator)
Som (Irbid), Tomb of the Veteran: training course on wall paintings conservation

16 .45 **Chiara Arrighi** (Conservator) and **Riccardo Auci** (Visiva Lab)
Presentation of the Data Base of the Qusayr 'Amra Monument

17 .00 Open discussion

Thursday . 23 October, 2014

QUSAYR 'AMRA COMPLEX. HERITAGE AND TRANSITION

Chair: **Gaetano Palumbo**, Program Director, World Monuments Fund

9 .00 **Claude Vibert-Guigue** (École Normale Supérieure, Paris)
The Qusayr 'Amra West bay as a "picture box"

9 .30 **Claus Peter Haase** (Museum für Islamische Kunst)
Representations of Rulers with their Regalia and Epigraphical Denominations

10 .00 **Maria Vittoria Fontana** (Università di Roma 'La Sapienza')
The depictions of Jonah's cycle at Qusayr 'Amra

10 .30 **Marco Di Branco** (Deutsches Historisches Institut in Rome)
The Six Sovereigns of Qusayr 'Amra in the Light of the Restorations

11.00-11.15 **Coffee break**

11.15 **Frédéric Imbert** (Aix-Marseille University, France)
Al-Walīd b. Yazīd and his inscriptions

11.45 **Karin Bartl** (German Archaeological Institute, Orient
Department)
Qusayr 'Amra in the wider context

13.15-14.30 **Lunch Break**

14.30 **H. R. H. Wijdan Al-Hashemi**
Amra between Fantasy and Reality

15.00 **Maria Andaloro** (Università degli Studi della Tuscia)
*The images of the Prince: the Artistic Traditions in Eastern
Mediterranean*

15.30 **Matteo Compareti** (Institute for the Study of the Ancient World,
University of New York)
*The So-Called "Six Kings of the World" at Qusayr 'Amra and
the Representation of the Neighboring Kingdoms in Late
Antique Iranian Culture*

16.00 **Nadia Ali** (Khalili Research Center, University of Oxford)
Making and Viewing Images in Eighth Century Bilad al-Sham

16.00-16.15 **Coffee break**

16.45 **Ignacio Arce** (Amman, Spanish Archaeological Mission to Jordan)
*The Umayyad bath-houses at Khirbat el-Majjar and Qusayr 'Amra:
Palatine and representative venues in the transition between Late
Antiquity and Early Islam*

17.15 **Fabrizio Bisconti** (Università Roma Tre)
*The story of Jonah through the time between damn and resolution.
A biblical paradigm for the history of salvation*

17.45 **Open discussion**

For further informations:
Conference Scientific Committee

Dr. Giovanna De Palma
giovanna.depalma@beniculturali.it
giovannadepalma2002@gmail.com
Dr. Francesca Manuela Anzelmo
anzelmo.francesca@gmail.com