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13th International Round Table on Polychromy in Ancient Sculpture and Architecture

POLYCHROMY AND THE SENSES
Integrating Scientific, Cognitive, and Aesthetic Perspectives on Ancient Colour

A collaboration between the National Hellenic Research Foundation and the Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

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Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki
Thessaloniki, Greece



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DAY 1 | WEDNESDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2026
Theories and Beginnings: Ancient Ideas, the Aegean and the Adorned Body

09:00 - 09:30 **Registration**

09:30 - 10:15 **Welcome Addresses**

Olympia Vikatou, Secretary General of Culture, Hellenic Ministry of Culture
Bettina Tsigarida, Director General, Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki
Evi Ioannidou, Head of Communications & PR, HERACLES Group

Introductory Remarks

Hariklia Brecoulaki, National Hellenic Research Foundation, on behalf of the Organizing Commitee of 13th PRT

10:15 - 10:45 **KEYNOTE LECTURE 1 - Sassi M.M., "Between Pigments and Theory: Theories of Colour and Craft Knowledge in Classical Greek Philosophy"**

10:45 - 11:15 **Coffee break**

11:15 - 13:00 **SESSION 1 | Ancient Theories, Words and the Perception of Colour**
Chair: A. Rouveret

11:15 - 11:30 **Saito Y.**
Beyond the Narrative: Rose and Crocus transformed into the Incandescent Divine Illumination within Homeric Ἠώς

11:30 - 11:45 **Ierodiakonou K.**
Ancient Greek Philosophers on the Multiple Colours of the Sea

11:45 - 12:00 **Katsaros T.**
Sappheiros Vs Sapphire: A contribution to the re-evaluating of ancient literary descriptions on colorant and gem materials under Archaeogemmological point of view.

12:00 - 12:15 **Koch N.J.**
Rhetoric of Colour in Antiquity: an Approach

12:15 - 12:30 **Cervato G.**
Skiagraphia, Polychromy and Their Neo-phenomenological Readings

12:30 - 12:45 **Boura V.**
Colours, shapes, faces and characters: interactions between texts, portrait artists, and the audience

12:45 - 13:00 **Ro C.**
Variegation as Event: Varietas and Roman Wall Painting

13:00 - 13:30 **Discussion**

13:30 - 15:00 **Lunch break**

15:00 - 16:05 **SESSION 2 | The Aegean Bronze Age: Colour, Space and the Senses**
Chair: H. Brecoulaki

15:00 - 15:15 **Marketou A., Karydas A.G., Marthari M.**
Painted red: Evidence of pigment application and treatment at the Early Cycladic II Settlement of Skarkos (Ios)

15:15 - 15:30 **Vlachopoulos A.**
Monochromatic Polychromy. Principles and Rules of the Thera wall paintings.

15:30 - 15:40 **Sepetzoglou N.**
Illusionary games. The formation of space through the composition of colour in the wall paintings of Akrotiri, Thera.

15:40 - 15:50 **O'Dwyer O.**
Poikilia in Late Bronze Age Greek wall paintings: the dappled hide shield and ikria motifs

15:50 - 16:05 **Tsonakas K.**
Color, landscape and memory. A sensory approach to the Naval Scene in Nestor's Palace

16:05 - 16:35 Discussion

16:35 - 17:05 Coffee break

17:05 - 18:10 SESSION 3 | The Body Adorned: Skin, Garments and Sensuality
Chair: M. Svoboda

17:05 - 17:15 **Verri G.**
Πέπλων ἄγαλμα: Deconstructing the Garments of Peplophoroi through Scientific Analysis

17:15 - 17:30 **Bourgeois B., Vandenberghe Y., Jeammet V.**
Expressing sensuality: Skin rendering in Greek coroplastic polychromy

17:30 - 17:40 **Karamouzas D., Makris D.**
Naming colors the way the ancient Greeks did. The Digital visualization of polychrome clay figurines

17:40 - 17:55 **Barandoni C., Magrini D., Iannaccone R., Ferdani D.F.R., Manganelli Del Fà R., Bonifazi F.**
Serial Venus. Iconographic variants and polychromy of the Venus Anadyomene from the National Archaeological Museum of Naples.

17:55 - 18:10 **Pedone S., Andreuccetti P.**
Colored Garments: Imitation and Meaning of Painted Textiles in Medieval Sculpture between East and West

18:10 - 18:40 Discussion

DAY 2 | THURSDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2026
Buildings and Materials: Architecture, Metal, Pigment and the Workshop

09:00 - 10:10 SESSION 4 | Architectural Polychromy and the Colour of the Built Environment
Chair: K. Lapatin

09:00 - 09:15 **Frantzi G., Koundouraki C., Valadas S., Rousaki A., Candeias A., Vermeersch E., Vandenabeele P., Delegou K., Gesafides S., Kogou S., Mastrotheodoros Azevedo N. F., Karabinaki O., Vouvoudi E. C., Bikiaris D. N., Christofilos D., Moropoulou A., Matikas Th., Karapanagiotis I., Brecoulaki H.**
Material Narratives: A Multi-Analytical Decoding of Architectural Polychromy on the Temple of Hephaestus

09:15 - 09:30 **Silnović N.**
Colour, Ritual, and the Senses: Polychromy and Religious Experience in the Cult of Mithras

09:30 - 09:40 **Rodler A., Kerschner M., Wurzer J., Gail N.**
Seeing Colour at Ephesus: Ancient Polychromy and Modern Approaches

09:40 - 09:55 **Greppi P., Lenzi S., Sacchi F., De Vingo P., Mirulla G., Magrini D., Buti D., Volpe L., Cavaleri T., Hirsch S., Canepa M.C.**
Illusion and allusion: rediscovering colours in roman and early medieval architecture in Northern Italy

09:55 - 10:10 **Guerra D.** - online presentation
Painted marble and visual strategies: the regional abstraction in Sicily

10:10 - 10:40 Discussion

10:40 - 11:10 Coffee break

11:10 - 11:50 SESSION 5 | Bronze and Glass: Colour on Reflective Surfaces
Chair: A. Gadolou

11:10 - 11:20 **Carò F., Abramitis D.H., Hemingway S.**
An eye for details: A New Study of the Eyes from a Bronze Statue in the Metropolitan Museum of Art

11:20 - 11:30 **Pannuzi S., Santamaria U.**
Roman bronze sculptures: original colour of surfaces, patinas and polychrome details

11:30 - 11:40 **Manby K.**
Mapping surface polychromy on the British Museum's collection of Graeco-Roman 'bronze' statuettes of deities.

11:40 - 11:50 **Lepinski S., Stamm K., Basso E., Purdy E.**
The Polychromy of Roman Enamel-Painted Glass Vessels in The Metropolitan Museum of Art: A Study of Materials, Techniques, and Aesthetics in Roman Glass

11:50 - 12:20 Discussion

12:20 - 13:50 Lunch break

13:50 - 15:00 SESSION 6 | Pigments, Production Technology and Chromatic Economies
Chair: B. Bourgeois

13:50 - 14:00 **Becker H., Rust T., Pietras J.T.**
Reconstructing the historical production of Egyptian blue: investigating size and technical process

14:00 - 14:10 **Asscher Y., Leviant A., Yogev D.**
Production Technology of Egyptian Blue in Early Roman Judea: Firing Temperature and Colour Manipulation Techniques

14:10 - 14:25 **Mert R.C.**
Chromatic Economies of the Ancient Mediterranean: Egyptian Blue, Red Pigments, and the Cross-Media Reception of Imagery from Augustan Rome to Sagalassos

14:25 - 14:35 **Karapanagiotis I.**
HPLC identification of organic colourants in ancient polychromy

14:35 - 14:45 **Aggelakopoulou E., Bakolas A., Knowles T., Roffet-Salque M.**
Radiocarbon Chronology of Encaustic Beeswax in the Polychromy of the Acropolis Monuments

14:45 - 15:00 **Zarmakoupi M.**
The Ecology of Colour: Materiality and the Environmental Life of Polychromy in the Ancient Mediterranean

15:00 - 15:30 Discussion

15:30 - 16:00 Coffee break

16:00 - 17:05 SESSION 7 | Regional Workshops: Painted Pottery and Funerary Monuments
Chair: P. Liverani

16:00 - 16:10 **de Barbarin L.**
Polychrome pottery, craft mobility and interactions in the 7th century BCE. Insights from Megara Hyblaea (Sicily)

16:10 - 16:20 **Walter-Karydi E.**
The transformation of polychromy in Attic vase paintings of the 5th century BC

16:20 - 16:30 **Thanos A., Katsifas C.S.**
Polychromy in Attic Ceramic Production of the 4th Century BCE

16:30 - 16:40 **Merkouri C., Tzavali C., Dioti A., Servetopoulos A.S., Chatzidakis M., Mastrotheodoros G**.
Chromatic Narratives: Uncovering the Painted Grave Stelae of Eleusis

16:40 - 16:55 **Savvopoulos K.**
Painted Stelai and Loculus Slabs from the East Necropolis of Hellenistic Alexandria: Recent Fieldwork and Research

16:55 - 17:05 **Magrini D., Noferi C., Basilissi G., Maras D., Buti D., Cantisani E., Manganelli Del Fà R., Casanova Municchia A., Di Tullio V., Luvidi L., Boccuto A., Rosi F.**
The colours of Larthia: diagnostic analysis and comparative study of a rare Etruscan masterpiece

17:05 - 17:30 **Discussion**

17:30 - 18:00 **KEYNOTE LECTURE 2- Brinkmann V., Koch-Brinkmann U., "45 Years of Experience in Researching and Disseminating the Colors of Ancient Greek and Roman Sculpture. Learnings and Setbacks"**

18:00 - 19:30 **Evening Wine & Networking**
*Parallel: Opening of the temporary exhibition "**Seeing the Unseen: Six Stone 'Panels' of an Ancient Painting**" (Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki, Temporary Exhibition Hall A)*

DAY 3 | FRIDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2026
Court, Cult and the Sculpted Body: Macedonia, Ritual and Sculpture

09:00 - 10:15 **SESSION 8 | Macedonia: Painting, Death and Elite Display**
Chair: B. Tsigarida

09:00 - 09:15 **Brecoulaki H., Verri G., Coleman G., Karydas A.G., Simatos Ch., Kontogoulidou E., Georgiadou A.**
Sensory Aesthetics in the "Tomb of Persephone" at Aigai: Capturing the Painter's Ingenuity between Deep Lines and Fluid Brushstrokes

09:15 - 09:30 **Verri G., Kalaitzi M., Stamatopoulou M., Kokkori M.**
Before Your Very Eyes: Imaging and Spectroscopy of the Hellenistic 'Siege of Troy' Paintings in the Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki

09:30 - 09:45 **Petropoulou E., Katsifas C.S., Nazlis I., Arvanitaki A., Brecoulaki H.**
The Palette of Prestige: Polychromy and Elite Display in Ancient Macedonian Chryselephantine Couches

09:45 - 10:00 **Katsifas C.S., Galiniki S., Nazlis I., Rousaki A., Brecoulaki H., Simatos Ch., Karydas A.G., Manoudis P., Christofilos D., Karabinaki O.**
Non-Invasive Multianalytical Investigation of the Painted Decoration of the Potidaea Funerary Couch

10:00 - 10:15 **Arvanitaki A., Brecoulaki H., Athanasiadou A., Verri G., Katsifas C.S.**
An Attic Painted Marble Pyxis for the Macedonian Aristocracy

10:15 - 10:30 **Discussion**

10:30 - 11:20 **Coffee break**

11:20 - 11:50 **KEYNOTE LECTURE 3 - Lowe A., "Mediating Mimesis: Digital Technologies for Preservation and Non-Contact Restoration"**

11:50 - 13:20 **SESSION 9 | Colour, Ritual and Religious Experience**
Chair: A. Kyriakou

11:50 - 12:05 **Doulfis G.**
Beyond the Boundary of the Visible: Color and Visual Experience at the Sanctuary of Apollo Pythaios in Ancient Halasarna, Kos

12:05 - 12:20 **Brøns C., Stenger J.**
Perfume, Polychromy, and Sensory Experience in Greco-Roman Sculpture

12:20 - 12:35 **Liverani P., Bartolozzi G., Iannaccone R., Lenzi S., Manganelli Del Fà R., Magrini D., Neri E.**
The Colour of the Mystery Cults on the Esquiline

12:35 - 12:50 **Silnović N.**
Colour, Ritual, and the Senses: Polychromy and Religious Experience in the Cult of Mithras

12:50 - 13:05 **Cerato I., Barandoni C., Bonifazi F., Ferdani D., Giacco M.L., Iannaccone R., Magrini D., Massidda M., Pescarin S.** — presented by D. Magrini
Perceive Isis' Colours: A scientific communication model for diagnostics and polychromy reconstruction

13:05 - 13:20 **Kidd A.B., Dyer J.**
The chromatic experience of late antique Xanthos

13:20 - 13:50 **Discussion**

13:50 - 15:20 **Lunch break**

15:20 - 16:40 **SESSION 10 | Sculptural Polychromy: From Archaic Korai to the Roman Provinces**
Chair: E. Kontogoulidou

15:20 - 15:35 **McGowan E.**
Memory and the Senses: Making Sense of Phrasiklea beyond the Vision in Red

15:35 - 15:50 **Giacomini F., Franceschini M., Pasieka P.P.**
The Kore of Vulci: Greek colors in the land of Etruscans

15:50 - 16:05 **Ağtürk T.S., Verri G.**
Colors of Beauty: The Dardanos Aphrodite

16:05 - 16:15 **Abbe M., Perry M., Salguero T.**
The Polychrome Materialities of Two Statues of Aphrodite from Roman Petra

16:15 - 16:25 **Neri E., Amoroso N., Parée D., Strivay D., Chene G.**
PolyChRomA @ the Royal Museum of Mariemont (Belgium): Studying and Visualizing Colours through the Example of Two Roman Colossal Heads

16:25 - 16:40 **Klöckner A., Kelp U., Schmitz S.D.**
Perception in motion – colours on Treveran grave monuments and the passer-by

16:40 - 17:10 **Discussion**

17:10 - 17:50 **Break**

17:50 - 18:50 **Guided tour of the temporary exhibition "Seeing the Unseen: Six Stone 'Panels' of an Ancient Painting"**

DAY 4 | SATURDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2026
Afterlives and the Mediation of Colour

09:00 - 10:15 **SESSION 11 | Wider Horizons: Other Traditions, Later Lives and the Mediation of Colour / Chair: J. S. Østergaard**

09:00 - 09:15 **Tchaplyghine A., Touillon-Ricci M.**
An Iridescent Past: Mediating Ancient Mesopotamian Polychromy for Museum Audiences

09:15 - 09:30 **Gänsicke S., Ganio M., Trentelman K., Colombo F., Pannunzio E., Salemi G.** (15 min)
The Buddha Head from Merv: Conservation and Study of its Polychrome Surface in the Wider Context of Buddhist Art in Central Asia

09:30 - 09:45 **Pedone S.**
Reviving colour. Death and rebirth of polychromy in Byzantium

09:45 - 10:00 **Barandoni C.**
Beyond the Surface: How archival insights illuminate the study of ancient polychromy

10:00 - 10:15 **Mann K.U.**
Colour reconstruction of ancient sculptures in the age of AI: reflections on aesthetic perception, bias, and ethics.

10:15 - 10:45 **Discussion**

10:45 - 11:30 **Closing round table and concluding remarks**

11:30 - 12:00 **Light refreshments and farewell**

from 12:00 **EXCURSION TO VERGINA (AIGAI) - the archaeological site of Aigai, the Museum of the Royal Tombs and the Polycentric Museum of Aigai. Coach departs from the Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki; return to Thessaloniki in the early evening. Participation on prior registration.**

Scan to visit the website and read the Book of Abstracts

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