

The Age of Plastic: Ingenuity + Responsibility

An Interdisciplinary Two-Day Symposium
Convened by the Smithsonian Museum Conservation Institute
Thursday, June 7 and Friday, June 8, 2012

PROGRAM

THURSDAY, JUNE 7

- 9:00 - 9:10 Welcome address from G.Wayne Clough, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution
- 9:10 - 9:15 Introduction:
Robert Koestler, Director, Smithsonian Museum Conservation Institute (MCI)
- 9:15 - 9:55 Keynote address:
Bill Moggridge, Director of the Smithsonian Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum
Designing Plasticity

MORNING SESSION: BIG PICTURE THINKING

- 10:00 - 10:30 Odile Madden, Head of Modern Materials Research, Smithsonian Museum Conservation Institute (MCI)
The Age of Plastic
- 10:30 - 11:00 COFFEE BREAK
- 11:00 - 11:30 Susan Freinkel, Science Writer and Author
Plastic: A Toxic Love Story
- 11:30 - 12:00 Bill Ayrey, Historian and Manager of the Test Lab, ILC Dover
Plastics and the Space Program
- 12:00 - 12:30 Deborah Mielewski, Chemical Engineer and Technical Leader of Plastics Research Group, Ford Motor Company
Biodegradability, Recyclability and Engineered Plastics
- 12:30 - 2:00 LUNCH BREAK
- 2:00 - 2:30 Mary Brooks, Independent Consultant, Curator and Conservator
'Astonish the world with ... your new fibre mixture': Producing, Promoting and Forgetting Mid-twentieth Century Man-made Protein Fibres



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AFTERNOON SESSION: PRESERVATION, DURABILITY, RENEWABILITY

- 2:30 - 3:00 Thea van Oosten, Senior Conservation Scientist, Netherlands Institute for Cultural Heritage (ICN)
Preserving Plastic: Challenges in Conservation of Cultural Heritage
- 3:00 - 3:30 COFFEE BREAK
- 3:30 - 4:00 L. H. (Hugh) Shockey, Objects Conservator, Lunder Conservation Center, Smithsonian American Art Museum (SAAM)
When Intervention Has To Happen: Conservation and Restoration of Resin Sculpture
- 4:00 - 4:30 Molly McGath, Post Graduate Research Fellow, Smithsonian Museum Conservation Institute (MCI)
Engineered Obsolescence: A Plastic that Turns Into Gravel
- 4:30 - 5:30 Panel Discussion: Speakers from Thursday Session

FRIDAY, JUNE 8

- 9:00 - 9:30 Keynote address:
Robert Friedel, Technological Historian, Professor of History, University of Maryland
Is It Real? Imitation and Originality in Synthetic Plastics

MORNING SESSION: TO CONSUME AND RE-CONSUME

- 9:30 - 10:00 Cory Bernat, Food Historian, Member Smithsonian “Food and Wine History Team”
Smithsonian National Museum of American History
Plastic and Food Culture
- 10:00 - 10:30 Jan Vozenilek, Photographer and Cinematographer
Midway Island: A Message from the North Pacific Gyre
- 10:30 - 11:00 COFFEE BREAK
- 11:00 - 11:30 Pierre Comizzoli, Gamete Biologist, Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute’s
Center for Species Survival.
Separating Good Plastic from Bad Plastic in Conservation Biology
- 11:30 - 12:00 Mike Biddle, President and Founder, MBA Polymers
Supply Chain Becomes Supply Cycle: Closing the Loop with Plastics
- 12:00 - 1:00 Panel Discussion: Speakers from Friday Session
- 1:00 Closing Remarks: Robert Friedel

