

# Assessment and monitoring lighting conditions in museums



Evaluation of the fading rate of the LightCheck dosimeter with a calibrated reference scale  
(photograph provided by Fraunhofer ISC)

Exposure of a light dosimeter (type LCU) in the V&A next to a sensitive carpet  
(photograph provided by V&A)

## Dr. Hannelore Roemich

Associate Professor of Conservation Science,  
Institute of Fine Arts, Conservation Center, New York University

Works of art cannot be appreciated without light, but light is also one of the most powerful parameters in altering color and so causing irreversible damage. Before limiting the time of exposure for each object, it is advisable to monitor the lighting conditions on site with data loggers or with light dosimeters, such as the well-known Blue Wool Standard or the newly developed LightCheck. LightCheck dosimeters were tailored to detect low to medium values of light doses. Their response to light can be evaluated visually with a calibration card.

The presentation will introduce general lighting concerns in museums, featuring monitoring with dosimeters. A case study in the Cloisters will demonstrate possibilities and limits of the systems. The compromise between visitor's requirements and object's safety will be discussed.

# MCI

## *Topics in Museum Conservation*

**February 21, 2008**  
**10:45 am**

## ***MCI Theater***

MUSEUM SUPPORT CENTER

4210 Silver Hill Road

Suitland, MD 20746

301-238-1240



Smithsonian  
*Museum Conservation Institute*