Conservation Treatment of Tsunami-damaged Collections

Stabilization Processing of Cultural Assets Damaged by the Tsunami of March 11, 2011
Dr. Nobuyuki Kamba  
Conservation Scientist  
Former Supervisor of Conservation and Restoration Section and Special Senior Fellow, Tokyo National Museum

Desalination of Acrylic Paintings by Blotter Washing
Ms. Yuko Tsuchiya  
Painting Conservator and Senior Manager of Conservation and Restoration Section, Tokyo National Museum

Desalination of Japanese Lacquer Wares by Blotter Washing
Ms. Terumi Nonaka  
Objects Conservator of Conservation and Restoration Section, Tokyo National Museum

On March 11, 2011, a magnitude-9 earthquake shook northeastern Japan. The devastating tsunami that followed caused widespread damage to museum collections. The first step in the conservation treatment of these collections was the removal of salt, sediment, and biological organisms from collection objects. In a series of short presentations, three former and current conservation staff from the Tokyo National Museum discuss the process of stabilizing collection items and establishing inter-museum cooperation for the preservation of collections.