

Material in context

Analyses of cultural heritage to answer historical questions

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Elke Cwiertnia works as a conservation scientist at the Deutsches Museum, Munich. She has a diploma in conservation and restoration of cultural heritage (focusing on contemporary art) and a PhD in analytical chemistry. Elke has been involved in various interdisciplinary research projects which include most notably The Francis Bacon Research Project for his catalogue raisonné (2010-2014) and the Wax seals: Material and Context Project at the National Archives, UK (2015). Currently she is focusing on plastics, especially its use in the 20th century and the analysis of plastics and various additives to understand degradation processes and

aid preservation and conservation.

Her collaborative work together with conservators, historians, archivists, forensic scientists and legal advisors aims to inspire new questions and rethinking of methodologies in the field of material history and authentication of our cultural heritage.

Key words: interdisciplinary research, dating, authentication; case studies: Francis Bacon, Wax Seals, Plastics



Elke Cwiertnia and Adrian Ailes. Wax Seals Project.