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# INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL GRADIŠČE PRI DIVAČI 2022

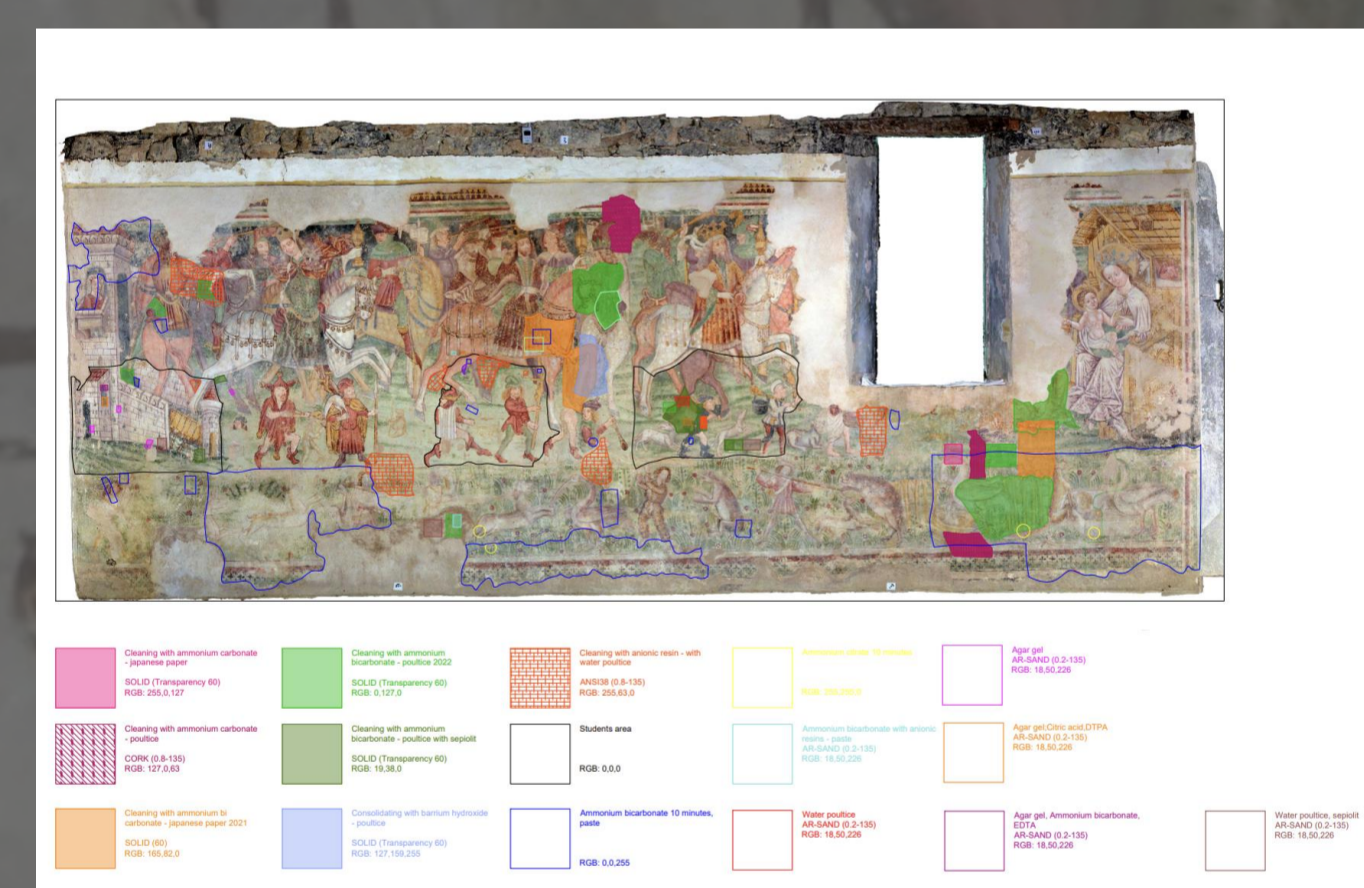
The medieval church of St. Helen, boasting a wall painting dated to around 1490 which is attributed to the painter Janez from Kastav, was the site of the International Summer School for students from Slovenia, Switzerland and Croatia in early September 2022 for the second year running.



This three-year project, headed by renowned conservator-restorer Prof. Alberto Felici from the Swiss University of Applied Sciences and Arts *Scuola universitaria professionale della Svizzera italiana* (SUPSI) and organized by the staff of the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of Slovenia – Restoration Centre (ZVKDS-RC and ZVKDS OE Nova Gorica), professors from the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Ljubljana (ALUO), the Academy of Fine Arts in Zagreb (ALU) and the University of the Arts in Bern has multiple goals.



In a stimulating international environment, students develop and extend theoretical knowledge, practical and communication skills by putting together a conservation-restoration project for the preservation of wall paintings in this valuable building and by applying conservation-restoration procedures in practice. By gradually learning about the building and the tools for research and analysis, they actively participate in the process of planning and evaluation of conservation-restoration interventions and in doing so, broaden their experience.



After the first year of the summer school, a conservation plan was proposed based on the study of existing literature and documentation, the implementation of preliminary analyses and research, and the documents on the condition of the paintings, whereas the activities of the 2022 summer school were primarily focused on defining the methodology of specific interventions on the wall paintings. In the online part, the students were introduced to the results of last year's summer school and attended numerous lectures about wall painting preservation, with an emphasis on Slovenian localities and practice, as well as procedures planned for this year. They independently studied documentation related to St. Helen's, which was collected, systematized and placed on the Microsoft Teams platform last year, making it transparent and easily accessible, which was a prerequisite for in situ education of students.

In the last phase of the summer school, which took place on-line, the students additionally processed and systematized all obtained data and the procedures that were recorded on the site in photographic and graphic documentation, and compiled the final report.



On the last day of the in situ part of the summer school, the undertaken activities were presented to the local and professional community in the Rudnik hall in Famlje.



For a dozen students, the opportunity to work on valuable wall paintings, to meet experts from different fields and backgrounds, learn about the rich local heritage and the chance to collaborate and socialize was certainly a valuable experience. The last phase of the summer school planned for 2023 will be dedicated to the aesthetic reintegration, i.e. the presentation of wall paintings in the church of St. Helen.