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Conservation practice in the digitization of works of art on paper

POSAVSKIMUZEJBREŽICE

Hrvatske Bratske Zajednice 4, 10000 Zagreb
Zagreb Tel:+385 1 616 4302
+385 1 616 4299
Web stranica: <http://www.nsk.hr/>

Authors: Stevo Leskarac & Đuro Singer
National and university library in Zagreb

The print collection of the National and University Library in Zagreb is the largest collection of its kind in Croatia, and it houses a large number of drawings, posters, graphics, graphic maps and other works of art on paper that were rarely available to users for many years.



Justus Sadeler



Radovan Devlić



Mirjana Vodopija



Sergije Glumac

The implementation of digitization in each collection is a very complex task. Our goal is determined by the intention to use digital copies to complete the fund of the institution, improve services and availability of materials, as well as to protect the originals. In this way, digitization becomes an important part of the documentation of cultural heritage, and the expertise of its execution into digital media using an image scanner for the heritage objects. In the implementation of digitization of visual materials, quality cataloging and description of units plays a very important role. Conservators implement effective strategies to prepare artwork for digitization.



Rembrandt van Rijn

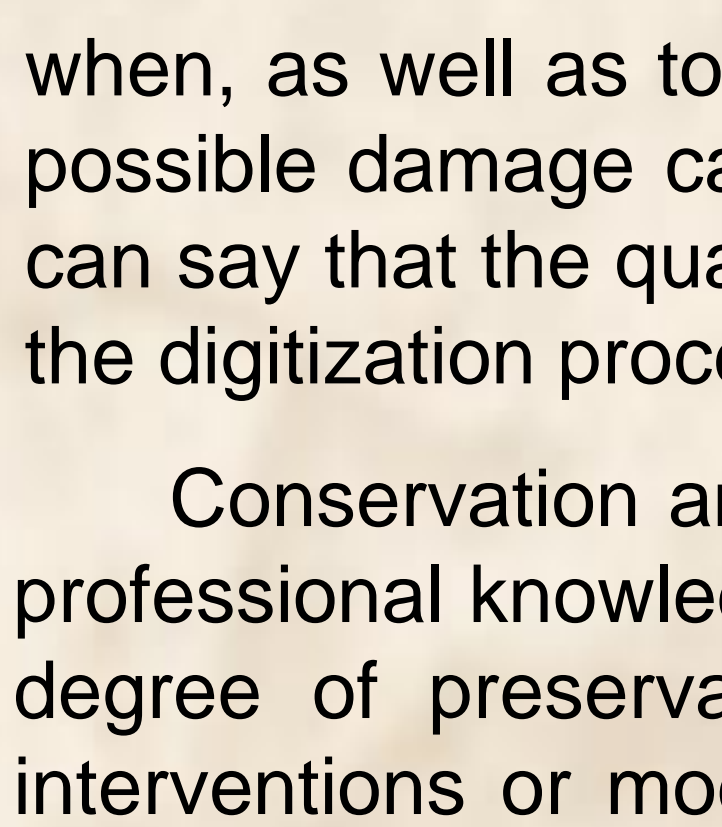


Milivoj Uzelac



Zlatko Kauzarić Atać

The approach to the conservation and restoration of works of art on paper is very similar to the protection of other valuable documents, although here the emphasis is on visual quality, that is their aesthetic nature. In the preparation process as well as in their processing for digitization, the principle of minimalist procedures is applied, which implies a careful examination and detailed research.

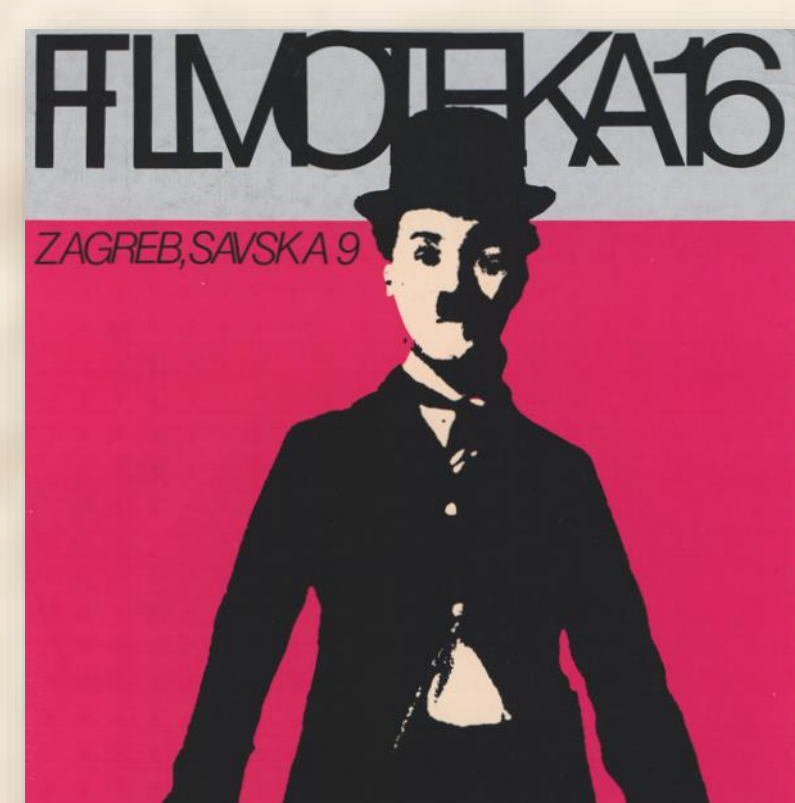


Oton Iveković

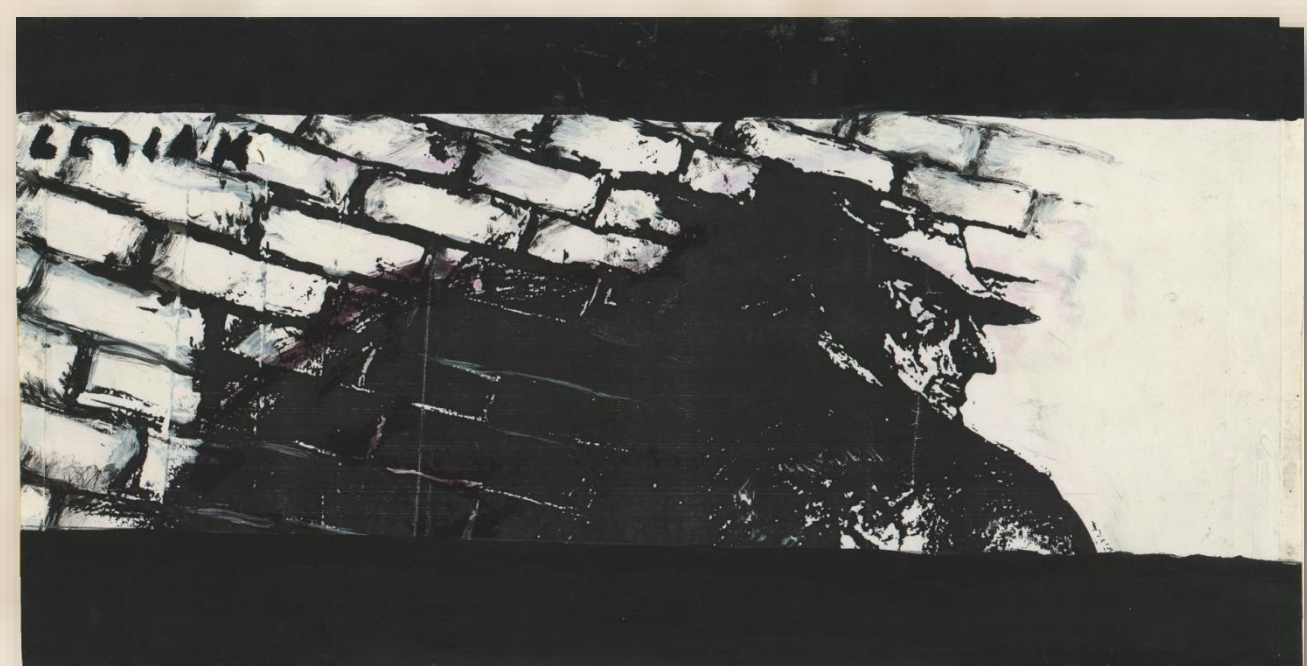
Conservation begins with the study and selection of materials suitable for the digitization process, which enables permanent storage and preservation of records in digital systems. First of all, it is necessary to determine the expected scope of a particular job with data processing. Documentation and scanning of artworks should be carried out to know which units have been digitized and when, as well as to determine the condition of the material before scanning. In this way, possible damage can be registered and appropriately repaired before digitization, so we can say that the quality and detailed preparation of the selected units play a crucial role in the digitization process.

Conservation and restoration research is based on the conservator's sensibility and professional knowledge. The process of protecting works of art on paper depends on the degree of preservation, which is sometimes impaired by decay, damage, previous interventions or modifications. During the analysis of artistic and visual characteristics, possible damages are monitored, depicted and appropriately treated. Changes that have occurred during digitization are monitored and corrected in order to establish whether the material is still in the same condition as it was during the digitization.

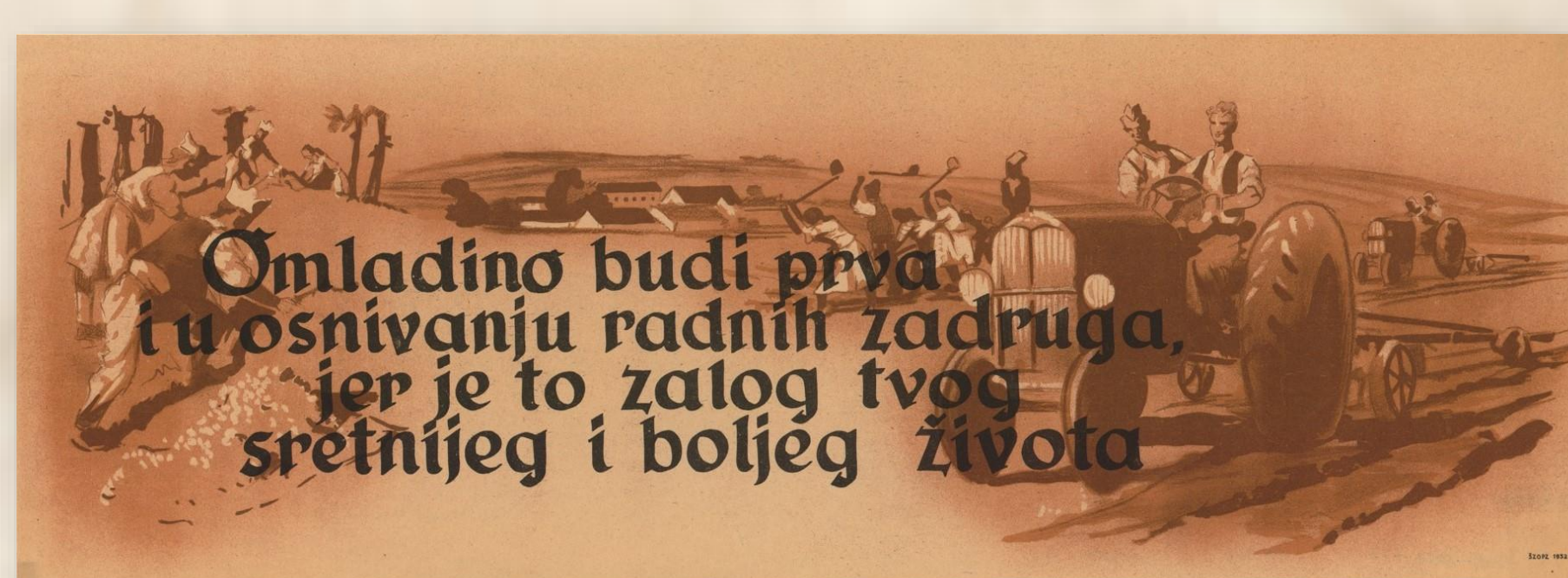
The digital world has a significant impact on the conservation role and its application in documentation and making digitized copies. The irreplaceable role of conservators, as expert guardians of cultural heritage in the digitization process is confirmed.



Nenad Pepeonik



Ivan Lesiak



Andrija Maurović



Oton Iveković



Andrija Maurović



Vladimir Filakovac



Zvonimir Lončarić