

SCRIPT PLASTIC IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP

PLASTIC IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP – MARCH 2026, VIENNA (AUSTRIA)

In collaboration with the Technisches Museum Wien and Österreichischer Restauratorenverband, we are organising a Plastic Identification Workshop from 16-18 MARCH 2026 at the Technisches Museum Wien. The workshop will be given by the two plastics specialists Olivia van Rooijen and Carien van Aubel. The aim of the workshop is to teach those in charge of art collections in any discipline to identify plastics in their collection themselves. During the workshop, we will strive to categorise as many plastic objects as possible with the Plastic Identification Tool, and transfer knowledge to enable independent identification in the future.

During the two-day workshop we will showcase different types of plastics, as well as explaining how to use the digital Plastic Identification Tool and the toolkit, a box with physical testing materials. Participants will receive a great amount of information concerning different plastics and their specific characteristics. These two days will be followed by one survey day at the storage facility of the Technisches Museum Wien, where we will apply the acquired knowledge to the identification of plastic artworks in their collection. Presence at the first two training days of participants who use the plastics tool during the survey days is mandatory.



Plastic Identification Workshop held at S.M.A.K., Ghent (BE). Photo credits: Titus Simoens.

GENERAL

The plastics team consists of:

Olivia van Rooijen

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Carien van Aubel

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NECESSITIES

Every participant is kindly asked to bring:

- 1 laptop/tablet per person, with Google Chrome browser
- ID card (you may be asked upon entry)

The plastics team provides:

- PDFs of the presentations
- Enough Plastic Identification Toolkits (one toolkit per two persons)

SCHEDULE

WORKSHOP DAY 1: 16TH MARCH 2026 (09:30-17:00*)

Time	Description
09:30-10:00	Welcome with coffee
10:00-10:15	Introduction of the group
10:15-10:45	General introduction plastics
10:45-11:30	Presentation of plastic foams and run-through of reference samples
11:30-12:00	Collective identification of a foam sample and run-through of the digital tool
12:00-12:45	Lunch
12:45-14:15	Identification of plastic foams in artworks from hosting collection
14:15-14:45	Presentation of plastic films and run-through of reference samples
14:45-15:15	Identification of film examples and discussion of results
15:15-15:45	Tea break
15:45-17:00	Identification of plastic films in artworks from hosting collection

WORKSHOP DAY 2: 17TH MARCH 2026 (09:30-17:00*)

Time	Description
09:30-10:00	Coffee
10:00-10:30	Presentation of elastomers
10:30-11:15	Identification of elastomers examples and discussion of results
11:15-12:30	Identification of elastomers in artworks from hosting collection
12:30-13:15	Lunch
13:15-13:45	Presentation of rigids (sheets, industrial product, made by the artist)
13:45-14:30	Identification of rigids samples and discussion of results
14:30-15:00	Tea break
15:00-16:30	Identification of rigids in artworks from hosting collection
16:30-17:00	Conclusions workshop

SURVEY DAY: 18TH MARCH 2026 (09:00-16:00*)

Time	Description
09:00-10:15	Identification artwork in duo's using digital tool & toolkit
10:15-10:45	Discuss the results of the identified artworks
10:45-11:00	Coffee break
11:00-12:00	Identification artwork in duo's using digital tool & toolkit
12:00-13:00	Lunch
13:00-14:00	Identification artwork in duo's using digital tool & toolkit
14:30-15:00	Discuss the results of the identified artworks
15:00-15:30	Tea break
15:30-16:30	Identification artwork in duo's using digital tool & toolkit
16:30-16:00	Conclusion workshop

* The exact timeline can change according to the opening times of the museum and is an indication of the schedule.