

23rd & 24th October 2025CAM – Centro de Arte Moderna
Gulbenkian, Lisbon

High-viscosity PVA-borax gel and other hydrocolloids. Gels as versatile tools for cleaning delicate and sensitive surfaces.

**Andrea Del Bianco &
Ilaria Saccani**

Overview The innovative procedure presented during the workshop will provide participants with new theoretical knowledge on the applicative potencial of this helpful gelling agent.

Andrea Del Bianco is a chemist and paper conservator, graduated at the Academy of Fine Arts of Bologna and with a Master in Conservation of contemporary materials; since 2006 he restores ancient, modern and contemporary artworks.

Ilaria Saccani is a conservation scientist with a degree in Conservation of easel paintings. Since 2006 she is part of CESMAR7 for research on ancient and contemporary artworks, with a focus on cleaning methods. She is professor of Chemistry Applied to Conservation at the Academy of Fine Arts in Brera, Bologna, Verona and Como.

Program – Theory/Practice

Presentation of the main classes of gelling agents used in restoration. Analysis of the properties of the different gels under the chemical-physical profile.

Gel preparation techniques and their variants.

Change of the physical characteristics and performance of the gel through variation of reagent concentrations, additions of rigid gels, chelators, water miscible organic solvents and water immiscible solvents by emulsifiers.

Presentation of case studies of application of PVA-Borax Gel loaded with organic solvents.

Participants will be directly involved in the preparation of PVA-Borax gels, testing how it is possible to modulate the viscoelasticity of the gel by varying the concentration of the reagents and how it is possible to load them with organic solvents.

Practical Information

Dates: 23rd & 24th October 2025

Location: CAM - Centro de Arte Moderna Gulbenkian - Rua Marquês de Fronteira, n.º 2, Lisbon

Number of participants: 15

Registration fee: 650€ (VAT included)

550€ (VAT included) – for old participants of 20|21 Masterclasses

Informal dinner: 23rd October - included in the price

Application: 2021@2021.pt

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