

Passing of Vincent Detalle

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It is with deep sadness that we announce the sudden passing of Vincent Detalle, a professor at CY Cergy Paris University specializing in experimental sciences and engineering for cultural heritage, on Tuesday 4 March 2025.



Since joining the Historical Monuments Research Laboratory (LRMH) in 2004, where he led the mural paintings division for 12 years, and later at the Center for Research and Restoration of the Museums of France (C2RMF) until 2022, Vincent pioneered numerous research and development initiatives in heritage science. His doctoral work focused on Laser-Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy (LIBS), leading to various laser applications in material characterization and conservation-restoration, such as laser cleaning of easel paintings and the reconversion of blackened minium in murals.

Aware of environmental impacts on cultural heritage preservation and committed to effective, non-invasive restoration methods, he collaborated with academic partners both in France and internationally on innovative projects. These included monitoring artworks in situ using methodologies like holography, stimulated infrared thermography, and optical coherence tomography for varnish thinning control. Vincent actively participated in European research collaborations like CHARISMA and the IPERION projects, particularly on in situ analyses (MOLAB), and was instrumental in establishing the sustainable E-RIHS infrastructure and its French national node.

Since 2011, he had been involved with the French LabEx Patrima, EquipEx PatrimEx, and the *Fondation des Sciences du Patrimoine*. He initiated numerous projects supported by the Foundation, notably the EquipEx+ ESPADON, where he served as scientific coordinator. This project combines instrumental development and digital structuring around the concept of the "augmented heritage object". He was also actively involved in the setting up the European Cultural Heritage Cloud.

Vincent was passionate about mentoring young researchers and collaborating with scientific partners, always eager to explore new frontiers. He believed that heritage science should be rooted in cutting-edge research on material behaviour, continually challenging and expanding existing boundaries. His inspiration and influence are profoundly missed.

The C2RMF and LRMH join us in extending our heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones.