



CONSERVATORS, ART HISTORIANS, CURATORS, SCIENTIFICS OR SCOLARS, JOIN THE **ICON NETWORK**
– *THE INTERNATIONAL PORTAL ON ICONS* – WITH YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS (WWW.ICON-NETWORK.ORG)

Supported by
**European
Commission**



- **Atelier de Conservation-Restauration d'Œuvres Peintes (Nantes, France)**
Email : tableauicone@icon-network.org – Phone/fax : 00 33 2 40 20 37 12
- **The Byzantine and Christian Museum (Athens, Greece)**
Email : byzantinemuseum@icon-network.org – Phone : 00 30 210 72 11 027 – 00 30 210 72 91 544
- **The Valamo Art Conservation Institute (Uusi Valamo, Finland)**
Email : valamo.conservation@icon-network.org – Phone : 00 358 17 57 01 727

icon-network.org, a concrete idea

Thanks to previous “*Raphael and Culture 2000*” European Programmes and *I.C.O.M.* international meetings, a group of professional icon conservators, art historians and researchers was formed, setting the aim to create and promote a network of training and research institutions in the field of icon conservation and display.

During the last few years, a first and successful approach was tempted between icon specialists. These contacts quickly revealed the enormous need to start a dialogue as well as concrete actions for the protection and promotion of icons. After all icons are, or should be, considered as objects of a cultural heritage needing a professional treatment and an international recognition.



The idea of this initiative is to create a wide network presenting and representing schools, institutions, museums, research centers, exchange projects, publications, exhibitions and conferences that concern icons. Sharing a common point of view on the diffusion of information, the aim is to provide permanent and updated information to everyone interested in icon conservation, with respect to all the deontological and ethical codes of the profession.

From November 2007, this idea becomes a reality, since the project “**ICON NETWORK**” is supported by the “**CULTURE 2007–2013**” Programme of the **European Commission**. The *ICON NETWORK* is and will be independent from any other organization.

The aims of the Icon Network will be :

- To create a partnership between museums, organizations, universities and institutions working in the field of Icon conservation and research.
- To provide on-line information about Icons, such as conservation methods, publications, conferences, exhibitions...
- To create a list of all the Icon conservation institutions.
- To create a list of all the official and National Icon Conservation Schools.
- To present all museums and institutions holding Icon collections.
- To communicate cooperation programmes in order to encourage workgroups and exchanges of skills, experiences and points of view, instead of individual works and initiatives.

Refugee's Treasures > May 2009 – Athens, Greece
> February 2009 – Nantes, France

Within the *ICON NETWORK* programme, the B.C.M. will design and present a temporary exhibition on icons that belongs to the museum's **collection of "Refugees' Treasures"**

These works of Byzantine and Post-Byzantine art were brought to Greece after the end of the war with Turkey in 1922, a war which resulted to the loss of Greece and the signing of the Treaty of Lausanne in 1923. According to the terms of the Treaty, there was a mass "exchange of population" between the two countries. Together with the 1.2 million of refugees that came to Greece, several objects of their workshop also arrived, via the "diplomatic route", originating from churches of the Greek communities of Asia Minor and Eastern Thrace.



Apart from their artistic importance, the artefacts of the Refugees' Collection carry, above all, national and historic symbolisms, as well as deep human values. The exhibition will be focused on these objects and on the meanings they comprise. The works will be approached as **symbols of memory** as well as **symbols** of a personal, social and national **identity**, presented, on one hand, through personal stories and experiences of people that lived the events, and on the other hand, through the records of the official history of the nation.

Furthermore, through this exhibition, refugees of nowadays will be memorized in attempt to present how "memory" can also function as a mean for the construction of ideologies in contemporary societies.

The Byzantine & Christian Museum exhibition

Icons and People > October 2008 – Valamo, Finland > February 2009 – Nantes, France

The Finnish section approaches the general theme « **Icons and People** » by focusing on items which, while being venerated as sacred objects and admired as art works, are also powerful reminders of war, its changing fortunes – often collectively shared – as well as of losses and triumphs experienced on a private and personal level.

The main emphasis of the project lies on the 1939–1940 and the 1941–1944 wars between Finland and former U.S.S.R. because both of these meant irreparable losses for the cultural heritage of the country, and in particular for Orthodox monasteries, churches and icons.

As a result of the wars, vast territories in South-East and East – the heartlands of the Orthodox and of icons – were ceded



to the Soviet Union. A large quantity of sacred objects was rescued and retrieved from the war, sometimes by refugees, and often by the army, while, in post-war diaspora, the cherished objects gradually found their way to new churches, museums and homes.

Today, the largest and the best well-known collections of evacuated icons belong to *Valamo Monastery* and to *The Orthodox Church Museum*, in *Kuopio*, and both collections will be presented through several examples. In parallel, icons which are, or have been, in the possession of various private people will also be displayed and discussed in the light which written documents and photographs throw on their lives. (...)

Informations :
Valamo Art Conservation Institute
Phone : 00358-17-570 18 10
valamo.conservation@icon-network.org
www.valamo.fi

C A L E N D A R

December 3rd-4th, 2007

Nantes, France

- Partners meeting.

February 25th-29th, 2008

Valamo, Finland

- Workshop I in Valamo Art Conservation Institute :
"XIX^e Canvas portable Icons cut in pieces. Lining methods."
- Intern presentation of the portal first version.

► **January 2009**

Kuopio, Finland

- Exhibition "Icons and People, Orthodox Church Museum."

February 2009

Nantes, France

- Virtual form of the two exhibitions organised in Kuopio and Athens, "Refugees' treasures" & "Icons and People", Castle of the Dukes of Brittany.
- Conference of the exhibition curators to the public.
- Public presentation of the portal on-line version.
- Workshop II in collaboration with ARC'Antique laboratory : "Cleaning solutions on *Olifa* russian varnish."

May 2009

Athens, Greece

- Exhibition opening "Refugee treasures."
- Workshop III "Cleaning solutions on byzantine icon resin varnishes."
- Reception to the Byzantine & Christian Museum, with public presentation of the portal final version..

(Updated information will be sent during 2008)

icon network