Intervención

JULIO-DICIEMBRE 2024
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EDITORIAL

Ir a versión en español

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Dear readers,

With renewed excitement, we announce the publication of issue number 30 of *Intervención, International Journal of Conservation, Restoration and Museology*, in celebration of its 15th anniversary with uninterrupted history. Since its beginnings back in 2010, the journal has been faithful to its mission of opening international dialogues regarding heritage and cultural inheritance. *Intervención* has developed into a journal that provides ideas, methodological proposals, techniques, and case analyses that have crossed the borders of Mexico and Latin America, even before its bilingual edition.

To mark its anniversary, the editorial team of *Intervention* decided to hold the *First Meeting of Publications on Conservation, Restoration and Museums* on November 11, 12, and 13, in 2024. The event took place at the facilities of the Escuela Nacional de Conservación, Restauración y Museografía (ENCRyM, in English, National School of Conservation, Restoration and Museography), located in Mexico City. The goals of the event were, on the one hand, to acknowledge editorial work, which is completely invisible in the academic world, and, on the other, to encourage more people to publish in spaces with an important level of indexation.

In the professional field, the idea that these spaces are reserved only for people dedicated to research, or rather, for eminent scholars, has become widespread. Personally, I wish to eradicate this belief (which I also had) and invite people who carry out other activities and productions within their profession that are not strictly academic to write and to publish. I believe that we deserve a dialogue that extends to other areas and discussions, and that also helps us think about heritage from new perspectives.

Returning to the Meeting, during the three days it lasted, around ten national and international editorial spaces met to discuss the challenges and issues that academic publications face today, as well as the shared characteristics and points of expansion. What was interesting about it was the reflections it left us with. Here I try to list the ones I took away.

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1. First, we agree on the importance of forming a professional editorial group, and we conclude that it is essential that these works need to be remunerated for them to be recognized and visible.
2. We also note that most journals tackle the challenge of sustainability and permanence by moving to digital format, a change that confronts us with the dilemma of preserving this type of collection. This is an open issue that we must continue to explore collectively.
3. On the contrary, I am pleased to observe that in recent decades, there has been a significant increase in the number of writings pertaining to museum studies. Moreover, there has been an increase in the number of spaces with exceptional editorial quality on these subjects. This has resulted in a proliferation of meeting points and feedback from diverse territories.
4. One of the most important considerations I took away was that the challenge of restoration consists of transcending the description of the technique and beginning to link professional praxis with issues that make up citizen agendas. Some of these issues are related to the gender perspective, feminisms, struggles for equality, and dialogue with other territories.
5. Finally, it was gratifying to know that the ENCRYM is forming an institutional policy on academic integrity, which includes issues of plagiarism and self-plagiarism, as well as the use of artificial intelligence. Both the Directorate and the Subdirectorate of Research and the Publications area of the School strive to promote good and ethical practices within the community, specifically for the teaching staff and students. Although these policies are under construction, they demonstrate that the School is interested in staying up to date on current issues, as well as facing the challenges that currently involve managing information and producing texts.

Having said that, I would like to present the contents of issue 30, which comprises seven texts written from Mexico, specifically Baja California Sur, Mexico City, and Jalisco, Spain, Nicaragua, and Portugal. Although these texts present various topics and case studies, Restoration prevails as a dominant subject.

This issue begins with an ESSAY entitled *Celia Calderón: Mexican Graphic Art, Activism and Memory in the Drawing and Print Collection of the Old Academy of San Carlos*, by Angélica Ortega Ramírez. This is an approach to the figure of this graphic artist, so that, through a study of several works, her extensive career is

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covered, focusing on her role as one of the first teachers in the Engraving Workshop of the Escuela Nacional de Artes Plásticas of the Academy of San Carlos (in Mexico City). This type of text helps to make female figures visible within the academy, and to vindicate the solid legacy they leave to the following generations.

This collaboration is followed by the RESEARCH ARTICLE section, which begins with the writing *Proposal for a Preventive Conservation Strategy Method Through Periodic Maintenance for the Religious Architectural Heritage of Stone and Raw Earth in Nicaragua*. It was written by Alicia Auxiliadora Estrada Castillo, who tells us about an interesting method that already takes international principles and guidelines in the conservation and restoration of assets and provides space for decision-making contextualized in a specific asset. This makes us discuss the importance of creating ways of working that are situated in the complex realities that we live in Latin America.

This section also includes *Comparative Evaluation of the Antifungal Activity of Extracts of Nurite* (Satureja macrostema)*, Thyme* (Thymus vulgaris) *and the Citrik® brand. Conservation of documents with paper support*, written by Paulina Marlen Rivera Aguirre, Juan Pedro Hernández Cebreros, Lucía Barrientos Ramírez, and Alexandra Miguel Guevara Castillo. This text deals with an experiment on biodeterioration of paper from the collection of the Public Library of the state of Jalisco "Juan José Arreola." This study evaluated the action of two natural essential oils and a commercial disinfectant against four fungal strains. The results give us hope on the path to eradicate the use of toxic chemicals in the conservation of this type of materials and lead us to reflect on more environmentally sustainable practices in the intervention of cultural heritage in a broad context.

This section of RESEARCH ARTICLE closes with the text entitled *Criteria and Methods of Restoration Used by Juan Manuel Zapatero and Francisco Prat in the Hispanic-American Fortifications of The Caribbean*. It was written by Oscar Mansergas Sellens, and provides us with an analysis of the criteria and procedures applied by the aforementioned restorers, precursors of the rescue and enhancement of Hispanic-American fortifications from the 16th to the 19th centuries. The text shows the close concordance between the methodologies used and the principles established by the theories of scientific restoration supported by these two figures. In addition, it encourages us to reflect on the ways of thinking about and preserving cultural heritage over time, as well as on the dynamics and beliefs that prevailed at that time.

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We continue with the ACADEMIC REPORT section. Here we can read *Cleaning of a 16th Century Bronze Artillery Piece from Terceira Island, Portugal. Buffering Solutions, Chelating Complexes, and Gelled Systems*, written by Anahí Meyer Riera. It consists of a study carried out at the Military History Museum on the Terceira island that investigates the use of buffered solutions with a safe pH for metal and controlled chelating complexes. It presents us with an alternative cleaning proposal to the not always viable immersion treatments and, primarily, to the invasive and abrasive procedures widely used in the intervention of pieces. In this way, it invites us to think about more reasoned restorations, where respect for originality is put at the forefront.

On the other hand, in the REPORT section—which we have rescued from the first period of *Intervención*—there is the work by Alexandra Hernández Borja, entitled *The Ruins of San Miguel Arcángel de la Frontera (18th-19th century) in Baja California, Mexico*. The text talks about a popular festival held in the town of La Misión, in Baja California, which takes the vestiges of the old and founding Dominican mission of the mid-19th century and turns them into a mnemonic resource for those who live there. In the context of the festival, the historic missionary structures stand for the birth of the current town of La Misión, which also form emotional links between people and heritage.

We close the issue with the REVIEW section, which in this case deals with a museum exhibition, titled *The Exhibition: Antonio Salazar y el Taller Documentación Visual. Arte, erotismo y militancia homosexual (Antonio Salazar and the Visual Documentation Workshop. Art, Eroticism, and Homosexual Militancy,* in English*)*, written by Angélica Valentino Muñoz. She examines how this exhibition, which was held in November 2023 in the Green and Pink Galleries of the San Carlos Cultural Center, exposed the militancy narratives that the Workshop engaged in against oppression and hate speech. In short, the author reflects on the importance of thinking about this type of museum productions, and of leaving a record of the role that this workshop had in the movement of the LGBT+ community, and in raising awareness and preventing the HIV virus in Mexico.

I conclude this presentation by expressing my gratitude to the remarkable team responsible for each text, encompassing the Editorial Coordination, our Editorial Committee of the Intervención Journal (CERI, in Spanish), the external evaluators, individuals responsible for proofreading and translating, and finally, the department responsible for managing the layout and design of the journal.

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Each member of the process makes possible the existence of this issue and of the entire journal.

Thank you for joining us and I wish you an inspiring reading!

Florencia Puebla Antequera | Editor in Chief
https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8853-7376

Translation by Carmen Plascencia