

International Workshop

TRADITIONAL CRAFTS – CARE AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING

Scuol (Switzerland), 19 – 26 August 2023

Despite the recognized value of the traditional building trade, training the next generation of artisans is a major challenge. To counteract this shortage of skilled craftspersons, initiatives have been launched and organizations founded that are dedicated to maintaining and passing on craft knowledge. To this end, different methods and approaches are used depending on the region and the craft.

Aim and target group

The event, organized by the Foundation pro Monastery of St. John and its partner institutions, is intended to promote networking and the exchange of experience between institutions in Switzerland and abroad who are active in this field, and to contribute to the continued existence of vital craft traditions. It is aimed at employees of such institutions, at professionals in the field of heritage conservation for whom this knowledge is of professional relevance, as well as to craftspeople who are passionate about passing on their skills and knowledge.

Workshop

The workshop includes a practical and a theoretical part. In the practical part, participants work together on a craft project. In the evenings, there is the opportunity for exchange in small discussion rounds. The workshop ends with a half-day public congress where the results of the professional exchanges are presented and discussed with those present.

Through an excursion organized by UNESCO Biosfera Engiadina Val Müstair, participants will learn about specific regional architectural and cultural landscape characteristics as well as initiatives to preserve them. They will also visit a traditional crafts workshop.

Craft project

The joint craft activity consists of designing and executing a large-scale sgraffito work on a suitable wall surface. This craft technique has a long tradition in the region. The craft programme is designed and supervised by Verein kalkwerk. kalkwerk is an NGO dedicated to the cultivation and further development of knowledge on the production and use of lime in the building trade. The lime used for the sgraffito is provided by kalkwerk. It was made from local dolomite stone, which gives it special properties that must be taken into account during processing.

Closing conference

The workshop will conclude with a half-day public conference to be held at the Fundaziun Nairs. The programme will be designed by the participants on the basis of the ideas and experiences gained during the workshop. The discussions will be moderated by Salome Lippuner, goldsmith, Urushi artist and lecturer for conceptual monument preservation at the Danube University Krems.

Organising institutions

Pro Kloster St. Johann Foundation - UNESCO World Heritage Site

The 1250-year-old monastery of St. Johann in Müstair, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is not only a living cultural asset, but also a repository of material knowledge thanks to its surviving architectural and archaeological substance. The foundation recognises the high importance of craft knowledge for society, the need for qualified specialists in the field of monument preservation, and the development opportunities this offers for Val Müstair. It has therefore decided to further develop and communicate the knowledge available in Müstair within the framework of a „Competence Centre for Monument Preservation and Crafts“ in cooperation with partners from academia, heritage preservation and crafts. This creates an internationally visible and Switzerland-wide platform for wide-ranging exchange, encompassing many areas of society, through which traditional knowledge and knowledge gained from the material evidence of the past will be analysed, discussed, further developed and shared.

UNESCO Biosfera Engiadina Val Müstair

The „UNESCO Biosfera Engiadina Val Müstair“ (UBEVM) consists of the Swiss National Park (SNP) as the core zone and the maintenance and development zone located in the municipalities of Val Müstair and Scuol. Val Müstair delegates the implementation of the UBEVM objectives to the regional nature park Biosfera Val Müstair.

The basic idea of biosphere reserves is the sustainable interaction of people with nature while at the same time taking into account a balanced economic and social development. This basic idea can be strengthened through projects to promote nature, culture and landscape, cooperation with schools, educational institutions and producers in and outside of the region, as well as national and international cooperation. The vision of sustainable development that already exists in the region is thus supported and actively expanded.

Regional Nature Park Biosfera Val Müstair

The Biosfera Val Müstair has been in operation since 2011. It is a park of national importance and part of the UNESCO Biosfera Engiadina Val Müstair. The Biosfera Val Müstair is responsible for implementing projects within the municipality of Val Müstair. The objectives of the nature park are anchored in the Federal Act on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage and include the preserving and enhancing the quality of nature and landscapes, strengthening a sustainable economy, environmental education, management and research. The preservation and communication of immaterial cultural heritage are part of the programme goals 2020 - 2024.

Verein kalkwerk

The „kalkwerk“ association is committed to promoting and sharing knowledge the traditional production of lime. In cooperation with other associations, institutions and experts, it actively contributes to the preservation and reuse of lime production sites that are threatened by decay.

The association preserves historic lime kilns and is committed to bringing them back to use. In addition, it keeps alive and teaches the traditional craft of lime production and processing, and is dedicated to promoting the increased use of lime in construction and other forms of cultural expression. By means of events, courses and publications, access to the subject of lime should become possible for everyone.

An important field of activity is connecting experts of artisanal trades, architecture, preservation of historical monuments, teaching, research and laypersons in order to support an exchange of knowledge and dialogue. In this way, „kalkwerk“ has established itself as a centre of excellence reaching across regions, where old knowledge is rediscovered and passed on, and innovations for sustainable building are researched.

Fundaziun Nairs

Founded in 2005, the Fundaziun Nairs is a synthesis of arthouse, art gallery and cultural laboratory. It connects the Engadine region with other cultures of the world. The foundation promotes dialogue and cooperation between the various artistic disciplines.

For many years, the main theme of the cultural laboratory of the Fundaziun Nairs has been Engadine building culture and the cultural and architectural history associated with it. The Fundaziun Nairs is itself the owner of a national monument, namely the former bathhouse in the Ensemble Nairs (www.nairs.ch), which it operates as a house of artists. In particular, the study of the local building material lime is at the centre its discussions, both in theory and in practice. In Verein kalkwerk, the Fundaziun Nairs' core messages are brought together. The Fundaziun Nairs was instrumental in the renovation and reconstruction of the lime kiln in Sur En and has helped organise the first lime burnings. In the wake of these first practical experiences, the transdisciplinary publication „Chalchera-Kalk in Transformation“, was published by Scheidegger and Spiess. Artists, craftspeople, material technologists, art historians and philosophers have their say: the publication is an attempt to raise awareness of lime as one of the foundations of human life in its entire breadth, from its occurrence in the landscape and in the human body to its formative cultural significance in the building culture of the Engadine and worldwide, and to embed it in a holistic view of our cultural landscape.

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PROGRAM

Saturday, 19.08.

Arrival, dinner together

Sunday, 20.08.

Excursion: architecture and cultural landscape
Ardez, Guarda, visit new forge in Giarson,
discussion in the evening

Monday, 21.08.

Introduction of sgraffito technique, design of a
community work, discussion in the evening

Tuesday, 22.08.

Realisation of sgraffito project, discussion in the
evening

Wednesday, 23.08.

Realisation of sgraffito project, discussion in the
evening

Thursday, 24.08.

Completion of sgraffito, unveiling of sgraffito in the
afternoon, discussion in the evening

Freitag, 25.08.

Morning free, afternoon public conference with
presentation of workshop results

Samstag, 26.08.

In the morning, internal final round of talks,
departure

Costs

A fee of CHF 300 will be charged for participants.
It is possible to apply for a waiver of this contribu-
tion with a motivated letter. The organizing com-
mittee decides on the granting.

Registration

Registration until 31.05.2023 to info@muestair.ch
Please include a brief description of your craft
background and your motivation (max. one A4)
with your registration.

The number of participants is limited. The orga-
nising committee will consider the diversity of
the group and the order in which applications are
received when selecting participants.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have
any questions:

Patrick Cassitti

Scientific Director

Pro Kloster St. Johann Foundation

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Tel. 0041 81 8585662

Advance notice

In the summer of 2024, another workshop on the
same topic will be held in Val Müstair as part of
the overall project. The craft will be different, but
the event will follow the same principle. Detailed
information and announcement will follow at a
later date. Pre-registration possible at: [info@mues-
tair.ch](mailto:info@mues-
tair.ch), Tel. 0041 81 858 5662




Kloster St. Johann Müstair
UNESCO WELTERBE



fundaziun
nairs
Künstlerhaus
Kunsthalle
Kulturlabor



 Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Eidgenössisches Departement des Innern EDI
Bundesamt für Kultur BAK

 Biosfera Val Müstair