



Do we know when an artwork is clean enough?

[Rent nog]

What is the essence of the words clean, dirt, and patina as related to artefacts and art in an architectural context? These and other questions concerning cleaning have a wide variety of answers depending on the context in which they are discussed. This workshop centres on the question: *What is clean enough?*

- *Why should images and cultural heritage artefacts be cleaned?*
- *Is the act of cleaning preservation – why or why not?*
- *What are the ethics of dust versus cleaning?*
- *What is the value of cleaning currently?*
- *Who determines what is clean enough?*
- *How is clean enough determined?*

The purpose of this workshop is to create a platform to discuss aspects of what cleaning means for the interpretation and experience of architecture-integrated art or artefacts in public spaces such as churches, castles or museums. Different professions and views will be brought together to experience the relationship between cleaning, ethics, conservation and knowledge related to architecture-integrated art.

Background

The inspiration for the workshop series “Clean Enough” [Rent nog] arose following a seminar at the Forum for Ecclesiastical Cultural Heritage (FFKK) held at Uppsala University in February 2017. During the seminar, the ICOMOS publication [*Medieval Murals in the Church Attics of Östergötland: Technical Art History, Reception History, Value*](#) (2016) was presented, and a range of thoughts and questions about wall painting and cleaning were discussed.

Art historians and scholars of visual history often return to the same images to study visual impressions and details. They have become concerned with a seemingly loss of fine detail and changes in color saturation, as the result of the cleaning of architecturally integrated artefacts in a number of churches during the last decades. Cleaning can thus affect the image/artefact and impact the visual expression in different ways, even when careful and conservation-led professional cleaning strategies are undertaken. However, custodians of architecture-integrated art in churches often argue that cleaning is important as a part of the use and maintenance of churches.

Conservators point out that cleaning often brings to light hidden details in the art works, and that cleaning is seen as a way to return to the original - a ‘rediscovery of the past’. In contrast to this view, scholars in archaeology, ethnology, and material culture studies can see significance and potential in preserving the dirt, soot and dust of the past for the future. Sometimes visitors to historic buildings – tourists or worshipers – miss or mourn the uncleaned impression and its messages of patina following cleaning interventions.

There are, therefore, many different ways in which cleaning can be interpreted, and how it consequently affects stakeholders, funding, perception and values. Through the use of dialogues on ethics and cleaning, different professions can contribute perspectives on what ‘clean enough’ means for art and cultural historical artefacts. A series of interdisciplinary workshops called “Clean Enough?” [Rent nog] was created based on these concepts.

Program

The day will be an interactive workshop. The day will include a few lectures, a round table discussion, a film and dialogues on site – together with artefacts in the churches. This will provide an excellent background and case studies for the day. The on-site dialogues will be conducted employing structured dialogues – the so-called Socratic Method. This is to investigate each other's experience and opinions related to these questions, and to try to determine the essence behind the words and to discover the essential questions behind the concepts of cleaning, patina, dirt and preservation.

The workshop will be conducted in Swedish and English.

Organizers

The workshop series "Clean Enough" [Rent nog] is initiated and organized by:

M.A. Anna Henningsson, art historian/conservator, Disent AB
Dr. Charlotta Hanner Nordstrand, art historian, Dept. of Conservation, University of Gothenburg
Dr. W. (Bill) Wei, senior conservation scientist, Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands
Prof. Elizabeth E Peacock, conservator, NTNU (Norwegian University of Science and Technology) University Museum, Trondheim. This workshop, are being carried out in cooperation with: Dr. Johan Eriksson, art historian, Department of Art History, Uppsala University and one of the directors of Early Modern Cultural History at Uppsala University

The workshops are supported by the IIC Nordic Group – Swedish Section (NKF-S) – the **Märta, Gunnar and Arvid Bothéns Foundation**. The first workshop took place on 6. February 2018 at the University of Gothenburg, Department of Conservation ([about the workshop](#)).

Location and time

The Uppsala workshop 5. October, 2018 starts at 9:00 and ends at 17:00. The sessions will take place in Uppsala Cathedral café, Uppsala Cathedral and Helga Trefaldighets Church (located in the same neighborhood of Uppsala).

Costs for coffee/tea and lunch

There is no registration fee; however, participants are obliged to register in advance (link below). By registering, participants agree to preorder morning and afternoon coffee/tea and lunch from Uppsala [Cathedral Café](#). Each participant pays for this the day of the workshop (cost approximately 240 SEK).

Registration

There are a limited number of spaces available. Registration is required. Registration deadline is 17. September:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/what-is-clean-enough-tickets-47830241540>

Contributors

Johan Eriksson, art historian, Dept. of Art History, Uppsala University
William (Bill) Wei, senior conservation scientist, Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands
Stavroula Golfomitou, conservator, Dept. of Conservation, University of Gothenburg
Rickard Isaksson, antiquarian, Church of Sweden, Diocese of Stockholm
Cathrine Mellander Backman, architectural historian, Swedish National Heritage Board
Charlotta Hanner Nordstrand, art historian, Dept. of Conservation, University of Gothenburg
Henrik Widmark, art historian, Dept. of Art History, Uppsala University
Anna Henningsson, art historian/conservator, Disent AB
Kirsten Trampedach, wall painting conservator, National Museum of Denmark
Raoul Hjærtström, antiquarian, County Administrative Board, Örebro

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Welcome!

nkf|s
Märta, Gunnar och Arvid
Bothéns stiftelse

DISENT AB
Tekniska lösningar för kulturarvet



 **NTNU**
Norwegian University of
Science and Technology



[Rent nog]

What is Clean Enough?

5 of October, 2018



Moderator: Helen Simonsson, National Heritage Board

9:00 *Introduction* by Prof. Elizabeth E Peacock, conservator and professor, NTNU University Museum.

Background information about the workshop series “Rent nog” presented by Dr. Johan Eriksson, art historian, Dept. of Art History, Uppsala University
Dr. Charlotta Hanner Nordstrand, art historian, Dept. of Conservation, University of Gothenburg, M.A. Anna Henningsson, art historian/conservator, Disent AB

Session I: Experiencing what clean enough can be – and for whom?

From **9:40-10:10** Three short presentations on the topic: *What is Clean Enough? Related to cultural value and perception of dirt and cleanliness*. Rickard Isaksson, antiquarian, Church of Sweden, Diocese of Stockholm, Raoul Hjærtström, antiquarian, County Administrative Board, Örebro, Dr. Stavroula Golfomitsou, Senior lecture in Conservation at the Department of Conservation, University of Gothenburg

10:10-10:30 Coffee

10:30-11:45 Inspired by the three presentations we conduct a dialogue, starting in the Café and continuing in the Cathedral.

OBS 11:45 return to the Café (no later than this, due to necessary preparation for worship in the Cathedral).

By Dr. Bill Wei, senior conservation scientist, Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands.

11:45-12:05 Dialogue summary. Moderated by Dr. Bill Wei, senior conservation scientist, Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands.

12:05-13:00 Lunch is served the Cathedral Café

Session II: New perspectives on cleaning decisions and cleanliness

13:00-13:40 Lecture: *Restoration of wall paintings in Danish churches - decision making process* by Kirsten Trampedach, wall painting conservator, National Museum of Denmark (followed by discussion).

13:40-14:30 *Crossing boundaries through merging views on cleanliness, contemporary art and conservation science*. A dialogue between M.A. Anna Henningsson, art historian/conservator, Disent AB and Dr. Stavroula Golfomitsou, Senior lecture in Conservation at the Department of Conservation, University of Gothenburg.

14:30-14:55 Coffee and walk to the Helga Trefaldighets Church.

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Session III: Ways of seeing: What is clean enough?

15:00-15:30 In Helga Trefaldighets Church *What do we see?* Individual exercise that focuses on interacting with the paintings and decorative art in the church. To get more out of this individual exercise, we recommend looking at BERGER (1972), HERMERÉN (2016) and NILSÉN (1980) from the suggested reading in the programme attachment.

15:30-16:45 Round table discussion: Interdisciplinary views related to a wide set of aspects that can have an impact on *What is Clean Enough*.
Chair: Elizabeth E. Peacock. Participants:

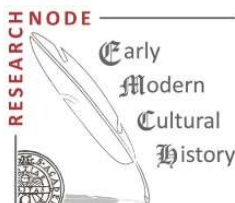
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Ca. 16:45-17:00 Short reflections on the day, discussion and the way forward.

17:00 End of the workshop



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