

13th International Round Table on Polychromy in Ancient Sculpture and Architecture

POLYCHROMY AND THE SENSES

Integrating Scientific, Cognitive, and Aesthetic Perspectives on Ancient Colour

18–21 November 2026

Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki · Thessaloniki, Greece

Scientific Programme

Organised by **Hariclia Brecolouaki** (National Hellenic Research Foundation), **Anastasia Gadolou**, **Styliana Galiniki** and **Christos Katsifas** (Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki).

DAY 1 Wednesday 18 November 2026

Theories and Beginnings: Ancient Ideas, the Aegean and the Adorned Body

09:00–09:30	<i>Registration</i>
09:30–10:15	<i>Welcome Addresses and Introductory Remarks</i>
10:15–10:45	KEYNOTE LECTURE 1 — Sassi M.M., “Between Pigments and Theory: Theories of Colour and Craft Knowledge in Classical Greek Philosophy”
10:45–11:15	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:15–13:00	SESSION 1 · Ancient Theories, Words and the Perception of Colour
11:15–11:30	Saito Y. (15 min) Beyond the Narrative: Rose and Crocus transformed into the Incandescent Divine Illumination within Homeric Ἡώς
11:30–11:45	Ierodiakonou K. (15 min) Ancient Greek Philosophers on the Multiple Colours of the Sea
11:45–12:00	Katsaros T. (15 min) Sappheiros Vs Sapphire: A contribution to the re-evaluating of ancient literary descriptions on colorant and gem materials under Archaeogemmological point of view.
12:00–12:15	Koch N.J. (15 min) Rhetoric of Colour in Antiquity: an Approach
12:15–12:30	Cervato G. (15 min) Skiagraphia, Polychromy and Their Neo-phenomenological Readings
12:30–12:45	Boura V. (15 min) Colours, shapes, faces and characters: interactions between texts, portrait artists, and the audience
12:45–13:00	Ro C. (15 min) Variegation as Event: Varietas and Roman Wall Painting
13:00–13:30	Discussion — Session 1
13:30–15:00	<i>Lunch break</i>
15:00–16:05	SESSION 2 · The Aegean Bronze Age: Colour, Space and the Senses
15:00–15:15	Marketou A., Karydas A.G., Marthari M. (15 min) Painted red: Evidence of pigment application and treatment at the Early Cycladic II Settlement of Skarkos (Ios)
15:15–15:30	Vlachopoulos A. (15 min) Monochromatic Polychromy. Principles and Rules of the Thera wall-paintings”
15:30–15:40	Sepetzoglou N. (10 min) Illusionary games. The formation of space through the composition of colour in the wall paintings of Akrotiri, Thera.
15:40–15:50	O’Dwyer O. (10 min) Poikilia in Late Bronze Age Greek wall paintings: the dappled hide shield and ikria motifs

15:50–16:05	Tsonakas K. (15 min) Color, landscape and memory. A sensory approach to the Naval Scene in Nestor's Palace
16:05–16:35	Discussion — Session 2
16:35–17:05	<i>Coffee break</i>
17:05–18:10	SESSION 3 · The Body Adorned: Skin, Garments and Sensuality
17:05–17:15	Verri G. (10 min) Πέπλων ἄγαλμα: Deconstructing the Garments of Peplophoroi through Scientific Analysis
17:15–17:30	Bourgeois B., Vandenberghe Y., Jeammet V. (15 min) Expressing sensuality: Skin rendering in Greek coroplastic polychromy
17:30–17:40	Karamouzas D., Makris D. (10 min) Naming colors the way the ancient Greeks did. The Digital visualization of polychrome clay figurines
17:40–17:55	Barandoni C., Magrini D., Iannaccone R., Ferdani D.F.R., Manganeli Del Fà R., Bonifazi F. (15 min) Serial Venus. Iconographic variants and polychromy of the Venus Anadyomene from the National Archaeological Museum of Naples.
17:55–18:10	Pedone S., Andreuccetti P. (15 min) Colored Garments: Imitation and Meaning of Painted Textiles in Medieval Sculpture between East and West
18:10–18:40	Discussion — Session 3

End of Day 1: 18:40

DAY 2 · Thursday 19 November 2026

Buildings and Materials: Architecture, Metal, Pigment and the Workshop

09:00–10:10	SESSION 4 · Architectural Polychromy and the Colour of the Built Environment
09:00–09:15	Frantzi G., Koundouraki C., Candeias A., Delegou K., Gesafides S., Kogou S., Mastrotheodoros G.P., Rousaki A., Stefanis A.N., Tsigkri A., Valadas S., Vandenabeele P., Vermeersch E., Brecolouaki H. (15 min) Material Narratives: A Multi-Analytical Decoding of Architectural Polychromy on the Temple of Hephaestus
09:15–09:30	Kremer G., Linke R., Plattner G., Pollhammer E., Krickl R., Silnović N. (15 min) The PolychroMon project – summarizing on the aesthetic strategies
09:30–09:40	Rodler A., Kerschner M., Wurzer J., Gail N. (10 min) Seeing Colour at Ephesus: Ancient Polychromy and Modern Approaches
09:40–09:55	Greppi P., Lenzi S., Sacchi F., De Vingo P., Mirulla G., Magrini D., Buti D., Volpe L., Cavaleri T., Hirsch S., Canepa M.C. (15 min) Illusion and allusion: rediscovering colours in roman and early medieval architecture in Northern Italy
09:55–10:10	Guerra D. (15 min) — <i>online presentation</i> Imitation marble and visual strategies: regional abstractionism in Sicily
10:10–10:40	Discussion — Session 4
10:40–11:10	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:10–11:40	KEYNOTE LECTURE 2 — Brinkmann V., Koch-Brinkmann U., “45 Years of Experience in Researching and Disseminating the Colors of Ancient Greek and Roman Sculpture. Learnings and Setbacks”
11:40–12:20	SESSION 5 · Bronze and Glass: Colour on Reflective Surfaces
11:40–11:50	Carò F., Abramitis D.H., Hemingway S. (10 min) An eye for details: A New Study of the Eyes from a Bronze Statue in the Metropolitan Museum of Art
11:50–12:00	Pannuzi S., Santamaria U. (10 min) Roman bronze sculptures: original colour of surfaces, patinas and polychrome details
12:00–12:10	Manby K. (10 min) Mapping surface polychromy on the British Museum’s collection of Graeco-Roman ‘bronze’ statuettes of deities.
12:10–12:20	Lepinski S., Stamm K., Basso E., Purdy E. (10 min) The Polychromy of Roman Enamel-Painted Glass Vessels in The Metropolitan Museum of Art: A Study of Materials, Techniques, and Aesthetics in Roman Glass
12:20–12:50	Discussion — Session 5
12:50–14:20	<i>Lunch break</i>
14:20–15:30	SESSION 6 · Pigments, Production Technology and Chromatic Economies
14:20–14:30	Becker H., Rust T., Pietras J.T. (10 min) Reconstructing the historical production of Egyptian blue: investigating size and technical process
14:30–14:40	Asscher Y., Leviant A., Yogeve D. (10 min) Production Technology of Egyptian Blue in Early Roman Judea: Firing Temperature and Colour Manipulation Techniques
14:40–14:55	Mert R.C. (15 min) Chromatic Economies of the Ancient Mediterranean: Egyptian Blue, Red Pigments, and the Cross-Media Reception of Imagery from Augustan Rome to Sagalassos
14:55–15:05	Karapanagiotis I. (10 min) HPLC identification of organic colourants in ancient polychromy
15:05–15:15	Aggelakopoulou E., Bakolas A., Knowles T., Roffet-Salque M. (10 min) Radiocarbon Chronology of Encaustic Beeswax in the Polychromy of the Acropolis Monuments

15:15–15:30	Zarmakoupi M. (15 min) The Ecology of Colour: Materiality and the Environmental Life of Polychromy in the Ancient Mediterranean
15:30–16:00	Discussion — Session 6
16:00–16:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:30–17:35	SESSION 7 · Regional Workshops: Painted Pottery and Funerary Monuments
16:30–16:40	de Barbarin L. (10 min) Polychrome pottery, craft mobility and interactions in the 7th century BCE. Insights from Megara Hyblaea (Sicily)
16:40–16:50	Walter-Karydi E. (10 min) The transformation of polychromy in Attic vase paintings of the 5th century BC
16:50–17:00	Thanos A. (10 min) Polychromy in Attic Ceramic Production of the 4th Century BCE
17:00–17:10	Merkouri C., Tzavali C., Dioti A., Servetopoulos A.S., Chatzidakis M., Mastrotheodoros G. (10 min) Chromatic Narratives: Uncovering the Painted Grave Stelae of Eleusis
17:10–17:25	Savvopoulos K. (15 min) Painted Stelai and Loculus Slabs from the East Necropolis of Hellenistic Alexandria: Recent Fieldwork and Research
17:25–17:35	Magrini D., Noferi C., Basilissi G., Maras D., Buti D., Cantisani E., Manganelli Del Fà R., Casanova Municchia A., Di Tullio V., Luvidi L., Boccuto A., Rosi F. (10 min) The colours of Larthia: diagnostic analysis and comparative study of a rare Etruscan masterpiece
17:35–18:05	Discussion — Session 7

End of Day 2: 18:05

DAY 3 · Friday 20 November 2026

Court, Cult and the Sculpted Body: Macedonia, Ritual and Sculpture

09:00–10:20	SESSION 8 · Macedonia: Painting, Death and Elite Display
09:00–09:15	Brecoulaki H., Verri G., Coleman G., Bogiatzis A., Karydas A.G., Simatos Ch., Kontogoulidou E., Georgiadou A. (15 min) Sensory Aesthetics in the “Tomb of Persephone” at Aigai: Capturing the Painter’s Ingenuity between Deep Lines and Fluid Brushstrokes
09:15–09:30	Ignatiadou D. (15 min) The lion-hunt painting in Aigai: an overlooked spot
09:30–09:45	Verri G., Kalaitzi M., Stamatopoulou M., Kokkori M. (15 min) Before Your Very Eyes: Imaging and Spectroscopy of the Hellenistic 'Siege of Troy' Paintings in the Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki
09:45–10:00	Petropoulou E., Katsifas C.S., Nazlis I., Arvanitaki A., Brecoulaki H. (15 min) The Palette of Prestige: Polychromy and Elite Display in Ancient Macedonian Chryselephantine Couches
10:00–10:10	Katsifas C.S., Galiniki S., Brecoulaki H., Simatos Ch., Rousaki A., Nazlis I. (10 min) Non-Invasive Multianalytical Investigation of the Painted Decoration of the Potidaea Funerary Couch
10:10–10:20	Arvanitaki A., Brecoulaki H., Athanasiadou A., Verri G., Katsifas C.S. (10 min) An Attic Painted Marble Pyxis for the Macedonian Aristocracy
10:20–10:50	Discussion — Session 8
10:50–11:20	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:20–11:50	KEYNOTE LECTURE 3 — Lowe A., “Mediating Mimesis: Digital Technologies for Preservation and Non-Contact Restoration”
11:50–13:20	SESSION 9 · Colour, Ritual and Religious Experience
11:50–12:05	Doulfis G. (15 min) Beyond the Boundary of the Visible: Color and Visual Experience at the Sanctuary of Apollo Pythaios in Ancient Halasarna, Kos
12:05–12:20	Brøns C., Stenger J. (15 min) Perfume, Polychromy, and Sensory Experience in Greco-Roman Sculpture
12:20–12:35	Liverani P., Bartolozzi G., Iannaccone R., Lenzi S., Manganelli Del Fà R., Magrini D., Neri E. (15 min) The Colour of the Mystery Cults on the Esquiline
12:35–12:50	Silnović N. (15 min) Colour, Ritual, and the Senses: Polychromy and Religious Experience in the Cult of Mithras
12:50–13:05	Cerato I., Barandoni C., Bonifazi F., Ferdani D., Giacco M.L., Iannaccone R., Magrini D., Massidda M., Pescarin S. (15 min) — <i>presented by D. Magrini</i> Perceive Isis’ Colours: A scientific communication model for diagnostics and polychromy reconstruction
13:05–13:20	Kidd A.B., Dyer J. (15 min) The chromatic experience of late antique Xanthos
13:20–13:50	Discussion — Session 9
13:50–15:20	<i>Lunch break</i>
15:20–16:40	SESSION 10 · Sculptural Polychromy: From Archaic Korai to the Roman Provinces
15:20–15:35	McGowan E., Sterling Clark R. (15 min) Memory and the Senses: Making Sense of Phrasikleia beyond the Vision in Red
15:35–15:50	Giacomini F., Franceschini M., Pasiëka P.P. (15 min) The Kore of Vulci: Greek colors in the land of Etruscans
15:50–16:05	Ağtürk T.S., Verri G. (15 min) Colors of Beauty: The Dardanos Aphrodite

16:05–16:15	Abbe M., Perry M., Salguero T. (10 min) The Polychrome Materialities of Two Statues of Aphrodite from Roman Petra
16:15–16:25	Neri E., Amoroso N., Parée D., Strivay D., Chene G. (10 min) PolyChRomA @ the Royal Museum of Mariemont (Belgium): Studying and Visualizing Colours through the Example of Two Roman Colossal Heads
16:25–16:40	Klöckner A., Kelp U., Schmitz S.D. (15 min) Perception in motion – colours on Treveran grave monuments and the passer-by
16:40–17:10	<i>Discussion — Session 10</i>
17:10–17:50	<i>Break</i>
17:50–19:05	<i>Guided tour of the temporary exhibition “[title to be supplied]” at the Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki, followed by the permanent collections</i>

End of Day 3: 19:05

DAY 4 · Saturday 21 November 2026

Afterlives and the Mediation of Colour

09:00–10:15	SESSION 11 · Wider Horizons: Other Traditions, Later Lives and the Mediation of Colour
09:00–09:15	Tchaplyghine A., Touillon-Ricci M. (15 min) An Iridescent Past: Mediating Ancient Mesopotamian Polychromy for Museum Audiences
09:15–09:30	Gänsicke S., Ganio M., Trentelman K., Colombo F., Pannunzio E., Salemi G. (15 min) The Buddha Head from Merv: Conservation and Study of its Polychrome Surface in the Wider Context of Buddhist Art in Central Asia
09:30–09:45	Pedone S. (15 min) Reviving colour. Death and rebirth of polychromy in Byzantium
09:45–10:00	Barandoni C. (15 min) Beyond the Surface: How archival insights illuminate the study of ancient polychromy
10:00–10:15	Mann K.U. (15 min) Colour reconstruction of ancient sculptures in the age of AI: reflections on aesthetic perception, bias, and ethics.
10:15–10:45	Discussion — Session 11
10:45–11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:00–11:30	<i>Closing round table and concluding remarks</i>
11:30–12:00	<i>Light refreshments and farewell</i>
from 12:00	<i>EXCURSION TO VERGINA (AIGAI) — the archaeological site of Aigai, the Museum of the Royal Tombs and the Polycentric Museum of Aigai. Coach departs from the Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki; return to Thessaloniki in the early evening. Participation on prior registration.</i>

End of Day 4: 11:30