

President Signs Overhaul of TSCA

On June 22, 2016, President Obama signed a bill to overhaul the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) of 1976. The Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act (H.R. 2576) is the first major update of the nation's chemical safety laws in 40 years and gives the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) greater authority to review and regulate chemicals.

Environmental Defense Fund lead senior scientist Richard Denison said, "President Obama's signature today launches a new law that will help to improve public health for years to come. While not perfect, the Lautenberg Act fixes the biggest problems with a badly broken law that has left our health at risk. Now the hard part must begin: tending to decades of neglect when it comes to unreviewed and unregulated chemicals."

Even among proponents and advocates, there are various arguments over the merits of the legislation, particularly with regards to its efficacy to regulate chemicals and materials that are used in ways that were not intended by the manufacturer (as many artists and conservators chose) or may be tested in a way that does not reflect real world use.

At the very least, we will hopefully see a structure put in place to allow the EPA to better address these issues.

Read the AIC Health & Safety Committee's blog post about the bill on Conservators Converse:

www.conservators-converse.org/2016/06/congress-approves-update-of-toxic-substances-control-act/

New Publications

Berns, Roy S. *Color science and the visual arts: A guide for conservators, curators, and the curious*. Los Angeles: The Getty Conservation Institute, 2016. ISBN: 9781606064818. The author addresses the color concepts and issues that emerge when art is displayed, conserved, imaged, or reproduced. The chapters fall into two sections, fundamentals (e.g., spectral measurements, color and spatial vision) and applications (display of art, painting materials, and color reproduction).

Dawson, Julie and Helen Strudwick. *Death on the Nile: Uncovering the afterlife of ancient Egypt*. London: The Fitzwilliam Museum in association with D Giles Limited, 2016. ISBN: 9781907804711. This volume was published to accompany an exhibition of the same name, on display from 3 February–22 May 2016. The catalogue entries and scholarly essays explore the world of ancient Egyptian burial customs and practices, using information drawn from scientific analysis and imaging.

Krause, Susanne and Julia Rinck. *Buntpapier – Ein Bestimmungsbuch | Decorated Paper – A Guide Book | Sierpapier – Een gids*. Second, revised and extended ed. Stuttgart: Hauswedell, 2016. ISBN 9783776205169. The second edition of this guide to decorated papers includes supplemental general historical and technical information along with new and rare decorated papers.

Lammertse, Friso, Albert J. Elen, and Jan van Eyck. *An Eyckian crucifixion explored: Ten essays on a drawing*. Boijmans Studies. Rotterdam: Museum Boijmans van Beuningen, 2016. ISBN: 9789069182902. This book was published to coincide with the exhibition "A new look at a Van Eyck masterpiece" held at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, 25 January–24 April,

2016. In its ten chapters, experts examine various aspects of a drawing acquired in 2012 by the Museum Boijmans, from its discovery and technical materials to the identity of the artist, to determine if it is a work by Jan van Eyck himself.

Neven, Sylvie. *The Strasbourg manuscript*. London: Archetype, 2016. ISBN: 9781909492417. This book documents the author's research into the Strasbourg MS family of late-medieval German-language artists' recipe books. The Strasbourg manuscript, destroyed by fire in 1870, is believed to have been the oldest German-language source for the study of Northern European painting techniques.

Pollens, Stewart. *The manual of musical instrument conservation*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015. ISBN: 9781107077805. This is the first book to combine museum-based conservation techniques with practical instructions on the maintenance, repair, adjustment, and tuning of virtually every type of historical musical instrument. The author served between 1976 and 2006 as the conservator of musical instruments at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Unfinished: Thoughts left visible. New York: The Metropolitan Museum of Art; New Haven: Yale University Press, 2016. ISBN: 9781588395863. This catalog of the exhibition held at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, 18 March–4 September 2016, publishes essays and case studies by contemporary scholars that explore the concept of the unfinished in works of art.

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People

Becky Fifield recently joined The New York Public Library as their first Head of Collection Management for the Special Collections. Becky will build and lead the Library's Collections Management program for special collections. She has worked privately as a preservation consultant and served eleven years in collection management in the Antonio Ratti Textile Center and the Arts of Africa, Oceania, and the Americas at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. She may be reached at rebecca-fifield@nypl.org.

Susanne Gänsicke has been appointed as Senior Conservator of Antiquities at the Getty Villa in Malibu, starting mid-July. Since 1990, she was employed at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, most recently as Conservator in Objects Conservation. She has worked on active excavations in Egypt and Sudan, and has taught conservation at local and international venues. In 2015, she was the recipient of an Individual Grant from the Asian Cultural Council, NY, to conduct research on the preservation of metalwork in Nepal. She holds a certificate in archaeological conservation from the Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum, Mainz, Germany.

Theresa J. Smith is joining the Art Conservation Department at Buffalo State College as the new professor of paper conservation. Theresa had been Paper Conservator for Special Collections at Harvard Library's Weissman Preservation Center for the past nine years. She was also a fellow in paper conservation at the Straus Center for Conservation and