

PREMISE

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At that time, in 2001 – the year the journal “Conservation Science in Cultural Heritage” was first published – there was a need for renewal, for a journal that would consider the reality of the present and the past, and so reveal a new vision and themes and exchanges in a world where action was needed: the sector of cultural and environmental heritage.

We can only imagine the effect it had on the opposition and codified unwillingness.

Was it a union of heterogenous phenomena?

Was it the result of conflict, of a different scientific view?

A different aesthetics ethics?

A mix of ideology and science? A coincidence?

An attempt that should be considered extraordinary and/or only the result of a determined will?

It is for its very definiteness that this innovative view has lasted so long, looking at the reality regarding the study and research in the sector with different eyes, in other words, scientific value as a synergy of the human sciences and experimental sciences and its actuality as an instrument for establishing a common vision, a meeting point for several views.

In the context of the numerous and different problems of protection and valorization of cultural heritage reference has been made to the importance and the meaning of “looking” and the consequent meeting of “views”.

To reiterate, if “seeing” is an act carried out only with the eyes, that is, evaluating a work of art only by means of a stylistic, aesthetic, iconographic and historical analysis, “looking” necessarily also implies, for completeness and correctness, a diagnostic-analytical study that confirms or confutes the previous one: ultimately, in the first case, an evaluation with human eyes that can be compared, in the second case, to that carried out with instrumental eyes and, therefore, a valid ocular answer attributable to the competence of the historian and likewise a reliable judgment based on the technician’s use of technologies.

The sphere of multi-faceted themes connected to the protection and valorisation of cultural and environmental heritage, also includes other scientific, philological-philosophical-social and economic-managerial-legal areas, in accordance with the principle of interdisciplinarity.

It is in this irrefutable truth that the Journal places its “belief” to which scholars from around the world have responded with enthusiasm over the years by submitting their papers.

Our intention, therefore, in the current issue, N. 21 (2021), on the occasion of its twenty-year anniversary, is to start with a premise to the sequence of papers, presentations by different personalities in a meeting with remote participation and organized in Bologna by the Academy of Sciences of the Institute of Bologna (Accademia delle Scienze dell’Istituto di Bologna).