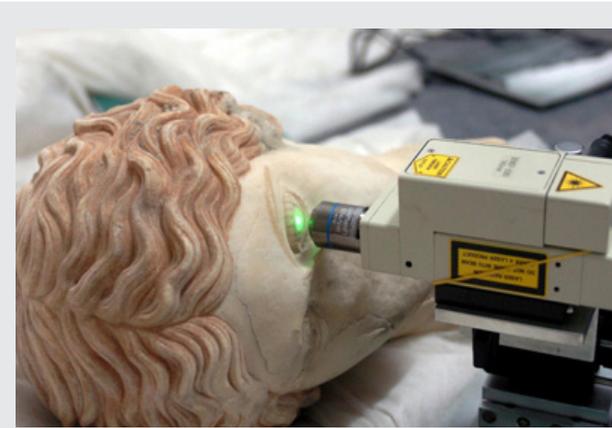


» SPOTLIGHT

**FROM RESEARCH A TASK
FORCE FOR CULTURAL
HERITAGE**

The cultural heritage analysis, preservation and restoration experts have set up a "network" in Italy with IPERION_CH.it, a mobile and integrated task force capable of intervening on works of art, monuments and historical and archaeological finds in situ or in the laboratory, in a non-invasive manner in order to plan the restoration work. The network offers free access to laboratories, portable diagnostic instruments and the technical and scientific skills of interdisciplinary teams of researchers working on selected intervention projects on the cultural heritage.

IPERION_CH.it is funded by the Ministry of Education, Universities and Research with the participation of the National Research Council (CNR), which is the coordinator, INFN, the National Materials Science and Technology Inter-University Consortium and, as infrastructure partner, the Opificio delle Pietre Dure (Workshop of Semi-Precious Stones) which offers its expertise in restoration and history of art.

The interventions currently planned concern: the Mosaic of Alessandro in the House of the Faun of Pompeii, preserved at the National Archaeological Museum of Naples (in progress); a collection of paintings by Pollock at the Guggenheim Museum in Venice (in progress); the Pala di San Bernardino by Piero della Francesca in the Pinacoteca di Brera in Milan; the Trittico del Maestro dei Fogliami Ricamati in the Polizzi Generosa church (Palermo); a number of works of Italian Pointillism at the National Gallery of Modern Art in Rome; the Encounter of the Pilgrims with Pope Ciriaco by Vittore Carpaccio in the Galleria dell'Accademia in Venice and the murals of the cave church of Sant'Angelo di Casalrotto (Mottola, Taranto).

The Italian network is part of a larger project to build a European inter-disciplinary infrastructure for preservation science and technology. (IPERION - *Integrated Platform for the European Research Infrastructure ON Culture Heritage*).

In detail, the newly-born Italian network for cultural heritage, IPERION_CH.it, involves the following: for CNR, Molab-CNR, the mobile laboratory for non-invasive investigation on works of art consisting of the

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Institute of Molecular Science and Technology (ISTM-CNR), the National Institute of Optics (INO-CNR), the Visual Computing Lab (ISTI-CNR) and the SMAArt Centre of Perugia; for INFN, LABEC, Laboratory of Nuclear Techniques for the Cultural Heritage in Florence, LANDIS, Laboratory of Non-Destructive Analysis of the National Laboratories of the South, the National Laboratories Frascati and the Bari, Bologna, Catania, Ferrara, Florence, Milan Bicocca, Naples, Turin sections; INSTM, the National Materials Science and Technology Inter-University Consortium, bringing together 47 Italian Universities engaged in advanced materials research and related technologies and OPD, the Opificio delle Pietre Dure in Florence, a centre of excellence for the restoration and preservation of the cultural heritage and higher education institute. ■