

A l'occasion de la remise de son Doctorat Honoris Causa de Sorbonne Université Francesca Casadio donnera une conférence le **mercredi 11 septembre 2019 à 14h** sur le campus Pierre et Marie Curie.

## **Pablo Picasso: Chemistry, Materials and the Creative Process**



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Francesca Casadio

*The Art Institute of Chicago, 111 S. Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL, USA*

The practice of studying works of art with the tools of science goes back several centuries. Yet, it is only in the 20th century that a true field, that of heritage science, has developed and matured, with scientists in museums, cultural institutions, academia and large-scale facilities applying the most cutting edge scientific techniques to priceless works of art, resulting in publications, scientific conferences, dissertations, museum displays and a prominent space in the media.

Within this body of work, seminal monographs have been published on the materials and methods of the great masters, from El Greco to Rembrandt, Van Gogh to de Kooning.

Despite the hundreds of thousands of pages on Pablo Picasso lining gallery bookshelves and art history libraries, and several isolated case studies of analysis of individual works of art, a comprehensive survey of the materials and methods of Picasso's oeuvre is lacking.

In this talk, I will present a personal overview of the scientific investigations of paintings, works on paper, and sculptures, from the Blue Period to the 1960s, drawing from 15 years of research on works in the collection of the Art Institute of Chicago, and in French collections.

The presentation will also highlight the tremendous progress and the frontiers that are still to be conquered for the full characterization of works of art with scientific tools, and underscore the need for global, interdisciplinary collaborations to advance knowledge.

Ultimately this type of scientific study in the humanities can bring to the fore how materials are “vibrant intermediates between making and knowing”<sup>1</sup> and how their study can make new meaning on the artistic practice of this prolific giant of modern art - Picasso.

*Keywords: nanoscale and macroscale characterization, paintings, sculptures, works on paper*

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<sup>1</sup> T. Ingold. Making. Anthropology, archaeology, art and architecture, London 2013.

Invitation

# LES CONFÉRENCES DES DOCTEURS HONORIS CAUSA 2019



## Pablo Picasso: Chemistry, Materials and the Creative Process

**Francesca Casadio**

Grainger Directrice exécutif de la conservation  
et des sciences à l'Art Institute of Chicago, États-Unis

**Mercredi 11 septembre 14h**

Salle 108 – Centre International de Conférences  
Campus Pierre & Marie Curie  
4, place Jussieu  
75005 Paris

Accès libre

**Salle 108 - 1<sup>er</sup> étage, Couloir 44-45, accès par tour 44**

Sorbonne Université, Faculté des Sciences et Ingénierie,  
Campus Pierre et Marie Curie, 4 Place Jussieu, 75005 Paris

**Plan d'accès :**

