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VORTRAG

von

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The Use of Menthol as a Temporary Consolidant in Art Conservation

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Abstract

Menthol, a natural organic compound from plant extract, due to its unique aromatic smell and cooling effect, has wide applications in food, cosmetic and pharmaceutical industries. By taking advantage of its volatile ability at room temperature, this compound has the potential to be used as a temporary consolidant in the field of art conservation. In this presentation, the basic research of menthol used in archeological urgent conservation is presented, including the performances of temporary consolidation, safety issues, and optimal application protocols. Finally, several field cases will be shown. The results prove that menthol is a safe and effective temporary consolidant.

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Dr. Han Xiangna studied materials physics and chemistry at Shanghai Institute of Ceramics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, receiving an engineering doctorate degree in 2013. She has two years' post doc experience at the department of chemistry in Zhejiang University. She joined the Institute of Cultural Heritage and History of Science & Technology, University of Science and Technology Beijing in March, 2016. She focuses on archaeological excavation site conservation, mainly about how to extract or transport fragile objects from archaeology field to a lab or exhibition hall. She also does effectiveness evaluation studies of protective materials used on stone, terracotta, wall painting, earth relics or other silicate culture heritages.