

Conserving a Giant:

Digitally Documenting a Painting Restoration Project

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Digitally Documenting a Painting Restoration Project

- Painting Background
- Modern Restoration Details
- Conservation Exhibit / Archive
 - Software Used
 - GIS techniques
- VuFind usage

Painting Background

- Old Painting with weird provenance
- Donated to Villanova around 1950
- Underwent restoration in 1956

1956 Restoration

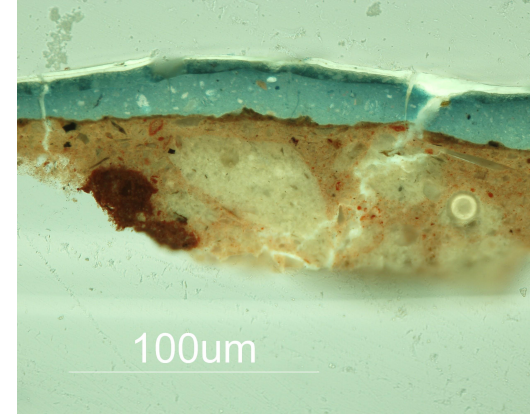


Modern Restoration Details

- The effort is a collaboration between professional painting conservators and Villanova faculty from the Art History and Chemistry departments
- Undo everything done in 1956
- Fix any damage
- Repaint

Conservation Exhibit / Archive

- Lots of content was generated during the conservation
 - Thousands of hi-res pictures
 - Chemical analysis of pigments
 - X-rays and other imagery



How do we tell the story of the Restoration?

With Neatline and Omeka

<http://hotchkiss.neatline.org/neatline-exhibits/show/battle-of-chancellorsville/fullscreen>

Conservation Exhibit / Archive: Software

- Wordpress
- Neatline / Omeka
- Open Geoserver
- QGIS
- VuFind

Conservation Exhibit / Archive: Software

1. Wordpress

- a. used by the conservators and faculty to publicize progress

2. Neatline / Omeka

- a. A timeline and interactive map generator based on OpenSeadragon

3. Open Geoserver

- a. An image server that provides access to vector and rasterized GIS items

Conservation Exhibit / Archive: Software

Problem, we don't have any GIS or map data!

Turn our painting into a map with GIS coordinates

GDAL - Geospatial Data Abstraction Library

`gdal_translate`

`-of GTiff`

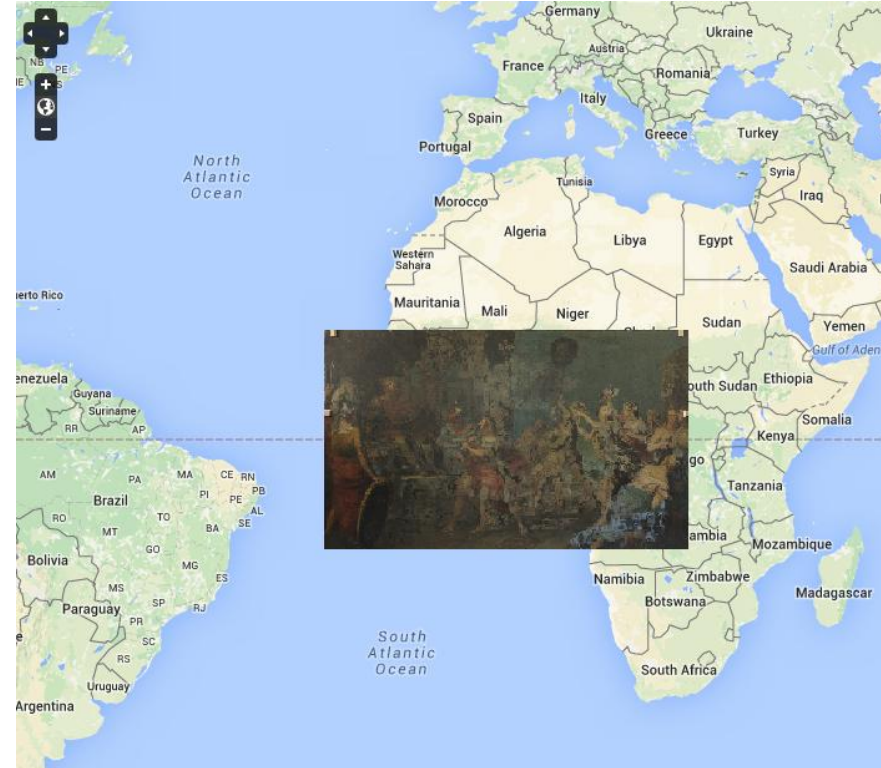
`-a_srs EPSG:3857`

`-a_ullr -2865750 1715250`

`2865750 -1715250`

`in.tif`

`out.tif`



Geo Rectification

The process by which a remotely sensed raster image (e.g. an aerial photograph, a satellite image, geophysics results, or even a scanned map) is linked in to a coordinate system so that it can be accurately located onto a map.

[illegible]

Where does VuFind fit in?

To facilitate Search and Browse!

A custom module was written

- Data ingest from Omeka/Neatline and Wordpress
- Custom Record view to display events “statically”

