Projected motion picture film and slides are in a state of crisis. Far more quickly than anyone could have anticipated, these technologies will soon reach obsolescence. Yet artists continue to create vital works using film and slides, and older works by significant artists are being shown in museums with increasing frequency.

TechFocus II: Caring for Film and Slide Art
Hirshhorn Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC
April 27–28, 2012, Ring Auditorium

TechFocus II is designed to educate museum professionals about the technology of film and slide-based artworks and to recommend best practices for their acquisition, preservation, and display.

The workshop includes a unique “School of Seeing”: films and slides are projected as examples of different production processes, so that participants can learn how to look at them with a critical eye.

The TechFocus workshop series is being organized by the Electronic Media Group of The American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC) to provide detailed technical education in the preservation of media art. A systematic lecture program, delivered by international experts, introduces participants to the technology behind these artworks and offers real-world guidelines for their preservation.

TechFocus II Planning Committee: Jeff Martin, Christine Frohnert, Joanna Phillips, Eric Pourchet with Susan Lake, Sarah Stauderman, Gwynne Ryan, Sarah Norris and Martha Singer

To register, visit www.conservation-us.org/techfocus2

TechFocus II: Caring for Film and Slide Art is made possible by the generous support of Foundation of The American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works, Smithsonian Institution Archives, and Electronic Media Group (a specialty group of the American Institute for Conservation).
TechFocus II: Caring for Film and Slide Art
Friday, April 27, 2012

Session 1: Introduction to Film and Slide Art

9:00 Coffee/Registration

9:30 Susan Lake
Chief Conservator
Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden

Welcome

9:45 Kerry Brougher
Deputy Director and Chief Curator
Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden

Curatorial Perspective

10:15 Sara Gordon
Time-Based Media Coordinator
Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden

Installation and Exhibition:
Slide Projection in the Gallery

10:45 Matthew Cowan
Independent Film Technician

Installation and Exhibition:
Film Projection in the Gallery

11:00 Maurice Schechter
Chief Engineer, DuArt Film and Video

The Filmmaking Process

11:30 Tina Weidner
Time-Based Media Conservator, Tate

A School of Seeing
Pt. 1: Slide Works

11:45 Lunch Break
Optional Session: The ABC’s of Film Handling
Informal small-group introduction to film inspection, splicing, etc.
Led by Maurice Schechter and Janice Allen

Session 2: Acquisition and Quality Control

1:45 Kate Jennings
Time-Based Media Conservator, Tate

Acquisition of Film Works

2:30 Jeffrey Warda
Conservator, Paper
Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum

Doug Munson
Director, Chicago Albumen Works

Acquisition and Creation of Exhibition Copies for Slide Works

3:30 Coffee Break

3:45 Janice Allen
Cinema Arts/John E. Allen Archive

Maurice Schechter
Chief Engineer, DuArt Film and Video

Creation of Exhibition Copies: Motion Picture Film

4:45 – 5:30 Paul Messier
Conservator of Photographs,
Private Practice, Boston

Panel Discussion
Getting Ready for Life After Film: How Can We Prepare?

5:30 Reception

TechFocus II: Caring for Film and Slide Art
Saturday, April 28, 2012

Session 3: Projection and Installation

9:30 Coffee

10:00 Christine Frohnert
Conservator of Contemporary Art,
Cramer Art Group; EMG Chair

Welcome/EMG Introduction

10:15 Sara Gordon
Time-Based Media Coordinator,
Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden

Installation and Exhibition:
Slide Projection in the Gallery

10:45 Matthew Cowan
Independent Film Technician

Installation and Exhibition:
Film Projection in the Gallery

11:00 Maurice Schechter
Chief Engineer, DuArt Film and Video

The Filmmaking Process

11:30 Tina Weidner
Time-Based Media Conservator, Tate

A School of Seeing
Pt. 1: Slide Works

12:15 Lunch Break
Optional Session: The ABC’s of Film Projector Care
Informal small group introduction to projector cleaning, maintenance, and adjustments. Led by Maurice Schechter and Janice Allen

Session 4: Projection and Installation Pt. 2

2:15 Ross Lipman
Senior Film Preservationist,
UCLA Film & Television Archive

A School of Seeing
Pt. 2: Film Works

3:30 Coffee Break

4:00 Janice Allen
Cinema Arts/John E. Allen Archive

A School of Seeing
Pt. 3: Film Works (Continued)

4:30 Moderator: Sarah Stauderman
Collections Care Manager
Smithsonian Institution Archives

Dialogue with the Audience

5:30 Reception