

Fresco: a message for the future

The workshop combines a concise theoretical introduction with engaging hands-on practice. Students are introduced to the fundamentals of the fresco technique—painting on wet plaster and explore the rich tradition of wall paintings in monasteries and churches of Kosovo and Metohija. They then prepare plaster manually, following historical recipes, and apply it to specially prepared surfaces. These surfaces include repurposed materials such as expanded polystyrene (EPS, commonly known as styrofoam) and extruded polystyrene (XPS, known as styrodur), treated through environmentally sustainable methods, as well as biodegradable boards made from corn husks and alginates.

Working on smaller formats (10x10 cm, 15x15 cm) ensures that each participant can complete their fresco while the plaster is still fresh. Students also learn how to create pigments from natural sources, and in collaboration with scientists, experiment with innovative bacterial pigments. The workshop encourages participants to express their creativity by choosing motifs that convey a personal message to future generations or by producing miniature reproductions of historic wall paintings from monasteries and churches.

The workshop invites students to discover firsthand the complexity and beauty of the traditional fresco technique, while raising awareness of the importance of cultural heritage and ecological sustainability in artistic practice. It inspires creativity, teamwork, and respect for the great masters of wall painting. Through hands-on experience, participants gain a deeper understanding of materials and processes, which enriches their appreciation of wall painting and of cultural heritage more broadly.

Mentor

Bojana Savić (1985) graduated from the Faculty of Applied Arts in Belgrade, Department of Conservation and Restoration of Paintings. Since 2010, she has been engaged as a teaching associate at her home faculty, and in 2022 she was appointed Assistant Professor. In her academic and professional work, she focuses on developing methods for a better understanding of the causes of deterioration of wall paintings through the study of the materials and techniques used in their creation. Her activities encompass both practical and theoretical aspects of conservation, as well as educational workshops intended for the wider public. In addition to her teaching and research work, she has carried out numerous wall painting conservation projects in Serbia and abroad, often serving as a team leader. Her scientific research interests are directed toward ecological sustainability in artistic practice and collaboration with scientists in the development of new materials.