

Cultural Heritage: A New Dimension

Voice-over 1:

Anne Coulié is a preservation expert at the Louvre, specialising in ceramics from ancient Greece.

Voice-over 1:

David Kolin is an IT expert, working on 3-D technologies at this research and restoration centre in Paris.

Voice-over 1:

The centre is in the basement of the Louvre, and one of its purposes is to preserve the documentation relating to tens of thousands of artworks.

Voice-over 1:

David and Anne are also experimenting with a new technology: digitalising artefacts in 3-D.

Voice-over 2:

This laser camera has two functions. First, it photographs the object to capture the colours; and secondly, a laser beam will slowly sweep the object to capture the topology. The detail captured is on the surface of the object. So if we take the colours out and use a raking light, like we do for paintings, we can see all the little details of the surface. All this information will then be stored in the computer.

Voice-over 1:

Here at the Louvre, only a few dozen objects are digitalised in 3-D each year, because it is still so time-consuming and expensive. However, according to Anne Coulié, in the future this technology could be a very useful research tool.

Voice-over 3:

The classic method relies on written reports, publications which contain very few illustrations. So it's obviously a big help using these 3-D images, which contain photographic coverage of each project.

Voice-over 3:

We can blow each minute detail up as large as we want, so we can examine things in more detail. Even then, when handling a vase, for example, there are things we might not have noticed.

Voice-over 3:

It's a very useful tool, this 3-D imagery, when classifying styles. I mean, through comparing works, we try to reconstruct the people who made them and get a solid, living image of their workshop.

Futuris, Copyright © 2010 – Euronews, All Rights Reserved.