

# Medieval Wall paintings studies versus new methods of datation

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Over the past decades, technologies involved in medieval wall painting studies had transformed our way of considering it. Now we all use chemical analysis of the murals and their components to specify their dating and their context of production. Since the invention of radiocarbon or dendrochronology, new analysis can now be more accurate based on the white lime or whitelead. In the meantime, Art history try to think about new methods to use stylistic details of the paintings to appreciate their datation. Some of these methods are inspired by archeology, like typo-chronology. All these collaborations bring many benefits to the understanding of murals, but it's still a challenge for everyone. Humanities and new technologies focused on distinct preoccupations. The real benefit in the past was to refocus art history on the materiality, that was not taken in consideration at that days. But, it is clear that the chronological ranges given by carbone 14 were so large (over two or three centuries) that it was not a help at all to precise the context of creation of a mural. Thanks to examples from mainly French area, the aim of this contribution is to recap the challenge implied by an interdisciplinarity collaboration, showing the evolution of new methods but also presenting some problematic cases, that will be exposed on April 2024 at the INHA (Paris) during the Workshop titled "Dater les peintures murales médiévales : approches interdisciplinaires".

Thème(s) de recherche

[1. Décors, monuments, paysages : approches globales du patrimoine](#)

[5. Matériaux, techniques, métiers : approches théorique et pratique du faire artistique](#)

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