Institut national du patrimoine – Restoration workshops and laboratory

The mission of the Institute is to recruit candidates through competitive entrance examinations and provide initial training to heritage curators for State civil service, local government civil service authorities and City of Paris. Another mission of the institute is to select candidates again through a competitive entry examination and train conservators-restorers authorized to work on public collections. Training for these two closely related and complementary professions within the same establishment is unique in Europe.

The department of conservators is located in the former Matchstick factory in Aubervilliers, an industrial site dating from the 19th century and totally renovated for the purposes of the initial and continuing training programmes of conservators-restorers, students and professionals.

Conservators intervene on the material significance of works and objects of high cultural heritage value in order to pass them on to future generations. They take action once this material is at risk and when age, accident or harmful handling have weakened the artifacts, altered or concealed their image.

For the training on conservation-restoration, student have the choice between seven disciplines: Earthenware and glassware, Graphic arts and books, Textile arts, Furniture, Painting, Photography, and Sculpture. Training is coordinated by professionals in conservation-restoration, teachers within the establishment and invited participants. Located close by, the scientific laboratory welcomes the students to carry out their experiments and analyses but it provides also a regular teaching support in the science field.

The visit will offer the opportunity to discover the some of the conservation workshops where some objects under restoration will be presented by students, as well as to meet the laboratory staff that will discuss the three missions of the team.

Schedule: 15:00 to 17:00
Maximum number of participants: 10 persons per group (2 groups)