

Degree Programme in Conservation		Specialisation Furniture Conservation
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Title The Conservation of a Urushi Lacquered Bodhisattva Statue		
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<p>Abstract</p> <p>The objective was to describe and analyze the conservation process of a Bodhisattva statue from the Joensuu Art Museum. The conservation aim was to prevent the item from future deterioration.</p> <p>The statue portrays an apostle/disciple of Buddha. It is from the Qing dynasty around the 19<sup>th</sup> century. As an inspirational and informational framework Chinese religions, Buddhist philosophy and professor Onni Okkonen's life and passions were introduced. Urushi was surveyed as a material and conservation techniques of the lacquer were studied. The statue was in a poor shape. The plaster was broken and chipped, hollow areas appeared close to the wooden form which had shrunk to humidity changes. The conservation acts consisted of consolidating of the loose lacquer and priming layer, removal of the poor earlier attempts at restoration, filling the areas of loss after which they were gilded and retouched. The damages of the statue were examined under UV light, cross sections of lacquer were taken and materials were examined under FTIR (Fourier Transform Infrared spectroscopy).</p> <p>The results of these examinations indicate that the material used on the statue is urushi. The result is significant information because urushi as a material was not mentioned in earlier examinations. The conservation techniques that were used based on earlier experiences dealing with urushi lacquer, such as consolidation and filling materials. Finally, the whole statue was retouched to achieve a unified appearance.</p> <p>These Asian urushi lacquered objects are susceptible to humidity changes and UV light that affect the structure of the lacquer. An already damaged surface will be affected by water. Conservation should be carried out using materials that will not harm the lacquer in the present or in the future. Humidity control should be monitored whilst keeping the statue on display or kept in store.</p>		
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