

<b>Date/Time</b>	27-30 April 2026
<b>Location</b>	University of Applied Arts Vienna, Conservation Institute, 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor
<b>Subject</b>	Modern metals in cultural heritage: understanding and characterization
<b>Instructor</b>	Dr. Virginia Costa

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### **Description:**

Aluminum alloys, stainless and weathering steels, and metallic coatings have been used for over a century in art and design and are now an important part of cultural heritage. Nevertheless, the lack of technical details or recommendations for surface finishing and handling invariably lead to their premature deterioration. An adequate understanding of these materials is an essential component for the long-term maintenance and conservation of this heritage. Through lectures, practical sessions handling objects and description of case studies, this workshop aims to:

- enable participants to understand the different types of contemporary metal alloys,
- recognize them from certain characteristics and report their conservation state using appropriate vocabulary

The course, as described above, was designed for students of the Conservation Institute and consists of lectures and a hands-on part in the afternoons, and is already complete. Given the strong interest in the topic “modern metals” among conservation professionals, it was decided to open the morning lectures for these professionals, thereby enriching the experiences exchange.

## Workshop: modern metals in cultural heritage

### Schedule

#### **27 April**

9:30 – 12:30

Introduction: Structure and properties of metallic alloys

Modern alloys: types and applications: weathering steel, stainless steel and aluminum

#### **28 April**

9:30 – 12:30

Modern alloys, types and applications: copper, titanium and zinc

Characterisation and identification of metallic alloys

#### **29 April**

9:30 – 12:30

Deterioration of modern metals and possible interventions

#### **30 April**

9:30 – 12:30

Selected case studies and critical evaluation of conservation treatments