

Ultra-High Resolution Digital Imaging Technology: An Impact on Cultural Heritage

1st and 2nd February 2013 17:00 to 19:00

Maison de la culture du Japon à Paris

101 bis, quai Branly 75015 Paris



The part of the wall painting of the Kannon-do, Ninnaji Temple

The large-sized ultra-high resolution digital imaging technology, as developed recently by Professor Ide and his colleagues in Kyoto University, implements an integrated system for permanently storing and dynamically displaying accurate digital data of a given cultural heritage in its current state. The stored digital image data also allows non-invasive analysis and identification of the pigments employed in the original creation of artworks for cultural heritages.

This seminar provides a brief account of the concept and the scientific aspects of integrated imaging system, thereafter demonstrating the first digital image data of various cultural assets owned by the Kannon-do, which was reconstructed in the middle 17th century in the World Heritage Ninna-ji (the head temple of the Omuro school, the Shingon Sect of Buddhism). Particular attention is paid to a wall painting of “Fūjin” and “Raijin”, the gods of wind and thunder, drawn in the beginning of Edo period. While inheriting the characteristics of ink wash painting developed in China during Tang Dynasty (618-907), these artworks appears to show germinations of typical design and coloring of the Rimpa school and even the Ukiyo-e, which reached their golden age in 18th century. In these aspects, the early Edo-period cultural assets in the Ninna-ji Kannon-do released more recently are discussed to indicate their cross-cultural elements and significant positioning in the history of Japan’s arts and crafts.

Contact: Chizu Hoshiai (Kyoto University)
hoshiai.chizu.5u@kyoto-u.ac.jp