



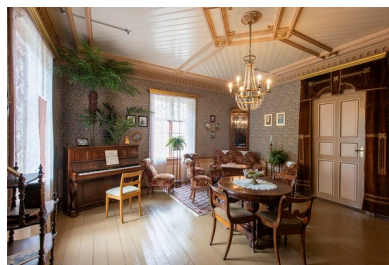
# The fire at Ringve Music Museum in 2015

Conservation and collection care

Vera de Bruyn-Ouboter  
Konservator NKF-N  
18.11.2025



The Norwegian Museum of Music – Ringve and Rockheim  
(Museums of Southern-Trøndelag), Trondheim <https://mist.no/>



# Outline

- **The fire**
- **The building**
- **The collection**
- **Experiences**



3. august 2015, kl 10.38



## The fire



10.43: Police and ambulance  
10.44: Fire brigade



Guests are evacuated and taken to a meeting point



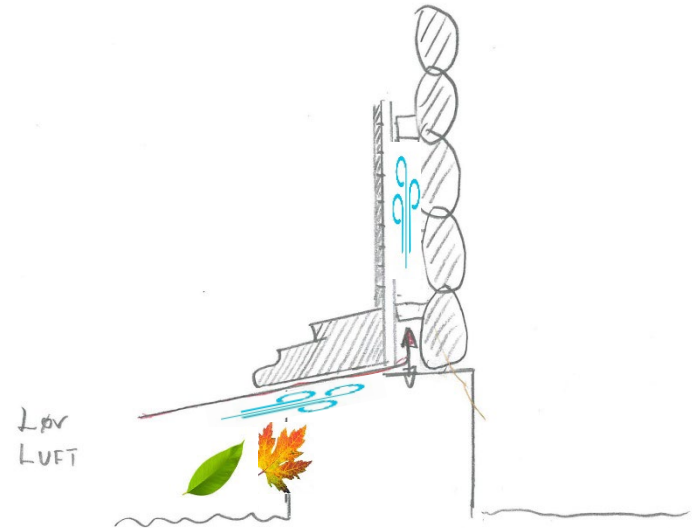


# Risk of over-ignition



# Cause of the fire

Press release South-Trøndelag Police District: "The conclusion after witness interviews, review of video footage and technical investigations is that the fire started as a result of hot work at the site.  
A propane torch made for burning down weeds was used at the site shortly before the fire, and it is the police's conclusion that this caused the building to ignite."





# The building

- Major damage in western part
- Water and smoke damage





# The exhibition before and after the fire

Hjørnestua 1<sup>st</sup> floor



# Cleaning and humidity control





# Rehabilitation of the building

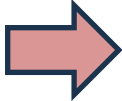
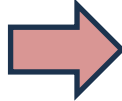
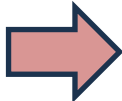




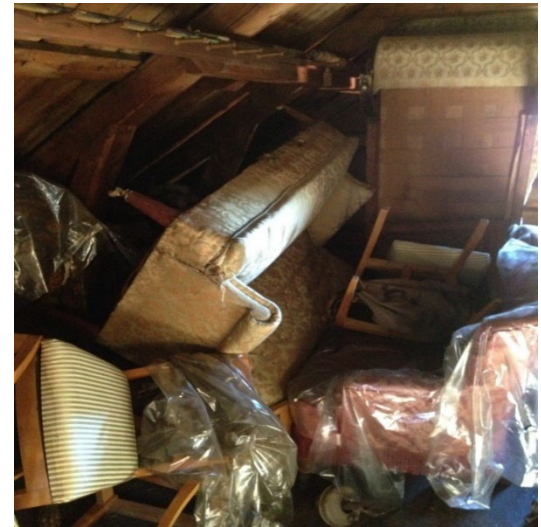
# The collection

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Evacuation</li><li>• Conservation - step 1</li><li>• Packing and transport</li></ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Storage</li><li>• Inventory control</li><li>• Condition assessment</li><li>• Conservation - step 2</li></ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conservation - step 3</li><li>• Return to the exhibition</li></ul>	

# The collection

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Evacuation</li><li>• Conservation - step 1</li><li>• Packing and transport</li></ul>	 <i>The first minutes/hours/days</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Storage</li><li>• Inventory control</li><li>• Condition assessment</li><li>• Conservation - step 2</li></ul>	 <i>The first weeks/months</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conservation - step 3</li><li>• Return to the exhibition</li></ul>	 <i>Two years</i>

# Evacuation





# Conservation – step 1

## Stabilisation



# Packing



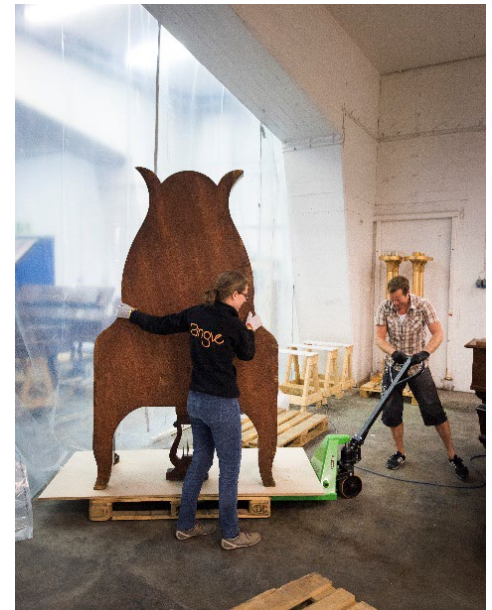


# Transport





# Storage



# Inventory control and condition assessment

- Identification of objects
- Registration/photo
- Value
- Physical marking
- Condition report
- Planning conservation treatments



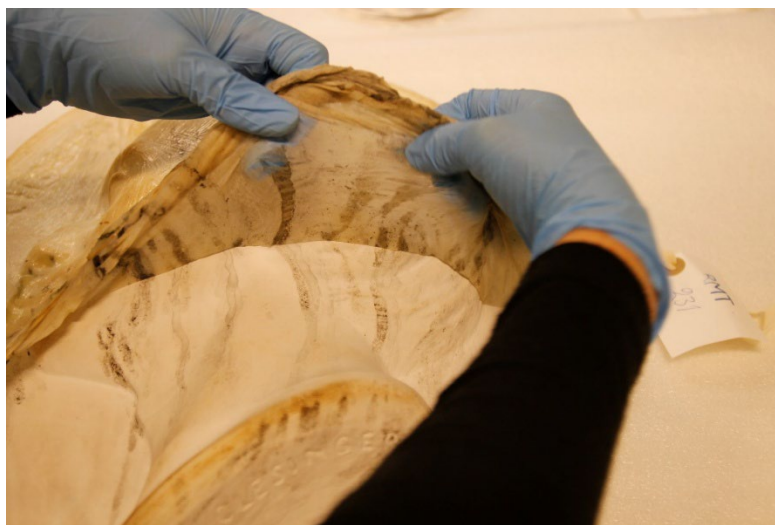


# Conservation - step 2

- Cleaning







# Typical damages and alterations

- Soot and dirt





- Traces of fire and heat





- Water damage



- Damage after evacuation





- Impact of high humidity



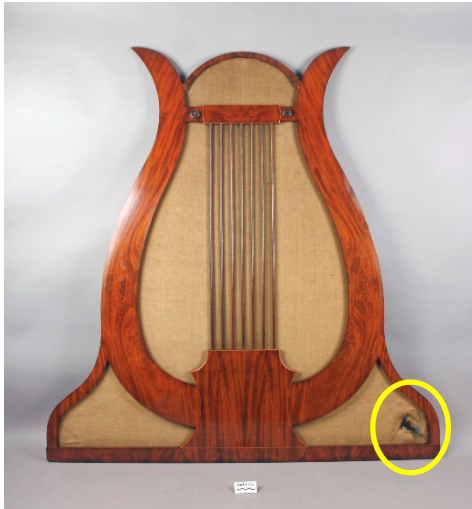


- Functionality of playable musical instruments



# Conservation - step 3

## Remedial conservation treatments



before



after



ongoing conservation



# Decisions conservation concept



before



after

THE DECISION-MAKING MODEL  
FOR CONTEMPORARY ART  
CONSERVATION AND PRESENTATION

Cologne Institute of Conservation Sciences / TH Köln, 2019  
updated version: 1.2 / April 2021



ongoing conservation

# Return to exhibition

Hjørnestua 1<sup>st</sup> floor (2017)





# Experiences

- Registration of objects
  - Disaster preparedness plan
  - Evacuation plan
  - Collections emergency kit
- 
- Exercise disaster preparedness in a team:
    - Responsibilities
    - Internal communication
    - Evacuation and handling of objects
    - Meeting media and external helpers
- 
- Emphasize HSE work
    - personal reactions in a crisis situation





Thank you!



Emergency table w/emergency telephone  
 Writing board w/paper  
 Waterproof marker, ballpoint pen  
 Stickers for marking  
 Form for registration of objects v/evacuation  
 Form for measures v/evacuation  
 Cotton tape, roll  
 Labels  
 Bubble wrap  
 Sheet (for covering objects)  
 Tissue paper  
 Spool  
 Rope  
 Masking tape  
 Wallpaper knife  
 Scissors  
 Scalpel  
 Thin plastic wrap  
 Bucket  
 Cloths for drying water  
 Sponge  
 Wooden wedges  
 Headlamp (AAA)  
 Disposable overalls  
 Safety goggles  
 Barrier tape  
 Dust masks  
 Rubber gloves  
 Assembly gloves  
 Nitrile gloves  
 Leather/work gloves (that do not stain)  
 Plastic bags with a lock  
 Plastic cup with a lid  
 Spare batteries (AAA)  
 Cat litter  
 Tissue paper  
 Transparent plastic bags, thin  
 Transparent plastic bags, thick  
 Absorbent for chemicals/oil

# Beredskapskasse

