Research in Graubünden

Experiencing cultural heritage anew

A pilot project merging art and technology

Augusto Giacometti: "Der Garten" 1912, oil on canvas, 64 x 91 cm, Bündner Kunstmuseum Chur, Depositum Privatbesitz. Photo: Galerie Kornfeld, Bern.

"One only protects what one values, and one values only what one knows," explains cultural mediator Britta Pollmann, describing the motivation behind the cross-institutional project "Kultur gestalten" (Shaping Culture). This project is currently being developed at the Swiss Institute for Information Science at the University of Applied Sciences of the Grisons. Project leader and educational researcher Vera Husfeldt elaborates on the project idea: "We want to demonstrate how the combination of digital technologies and artistic participation by the public can preserve and make cultural heritage accessible. In the first step, this will be illustrated using the example of the Giacometti artist family from Stampa." She emphasizes that the project is still in its early stages: "With initial funding from the University of Applied Sciences of the Grisons, we can now develop the concept."

Daniel Klinkhammer, a lecturer in User Experience and Human-Computer Interaction at the University of Applied Sciences of the Grisons, and Marco Giacometti, a descendant of the famous artist family, complete the four-member project team. Giacometti lives in Stampa and has been dedicated since 2009, through the

Centro Giacometti he founded, to ensuring that the knowledge of the works and biographies of his ancestors is not forgotten in their birthplace: "Stampa and the Bergell valley were the continuous and connecting reference point for Giovanni, Augusto, Alberto, and Diego Giacometti. Since this spring, Giacometti enthusiasts can discover the family's locations on the 'Sentiero Giacometti' themed path. From July, three documentary exhibitions are planned, and efforts are underway to repurpose Augusto Giacometti's birthplace for cultural purposes. Unfortunately, only very few paintings and sculptures by the artists can be found in Stampa. These are exhibited in art museums in Chur, Zurich, Paris, or New York, for example."
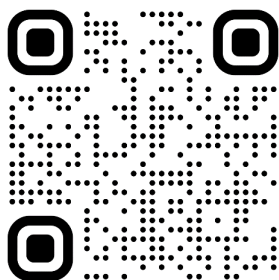
Pollmann explains how the project could create a new connection between the artists' former home and their artworks: "Participation in cultural heritage is very important to us. Artworks and old cultural assets can inspire and bring people together today to create something new together. For example, in appreciation of Augusto Giacometti's original work, people could design parts of a mosaic at different locations, which could be physically or digitally assembled. The final result could be presented in Stampa. In this way, a new work dedicated to the artist from Bergell would be created in a participatory project." Klinkhammer adds: "With digital technologies such as Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality, we want to not only depict the digital twin of the mosaic but also make the artwork virtually experienceable." "In the long term, we envision a national project. To this end, we will develop our concept further and apply for additional funding," Husfeldt outlines the next steps.

Author: Daniela Heinen in conversation with Vera Husfeldt, Marco Giacometti, Daniel Klinkhammer, Britta Pollmann

"Graubünden forscht 2024"
On November 8 and 9, 2024, the Academia Raetica will host the ninth conference "Graubünden forscht" at the Davos Congress Center. On Saturday, November 9, 2024, the public is invited to gain insight into the diverse research activities in the canton at the "Mittag der Forschung" (Science Noon) and experience science up close. For details, visit www.gr-forscht.ch.

QR-Code Project Website (http://www.cultura-im-perfetta.fhgr.ch)

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