



*The Value of Conservation in the Twenty-First Century: The Nigerian Story*

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The conservation of cultural heritage and works of art in Nigeria has not been adequately valued, recognized and appreciated. The poor perception of conservation by the public stems from the low priority and importance given to museums and artworks in general. The public is yet to understand that a museum does not exist just for the singular purpose of acquiring tangible cultural heritage but it also exists to conserve these objects for the purpose of education and enjoyment in a stable condition which will be passed on to future generations. The effect is that the conservation of the cultural heritage is neither discussed nor taken as an issue of serious concern. However a proactive step taken by conservators to create awareness about the purpose and usefulness of conservation will help the public to understand the great need and urgency for conservation of cultural heritage in the society. Nigerian conservators can create this awareness by using the media (including social media) and organizing seminars which should include both conservators and non-conservators as participants. Moreover, there is a great need for Nigerian conservators to be more research-oriented in order to develop better and effective techniques in conservation of the cultural heritage in Nigeria.