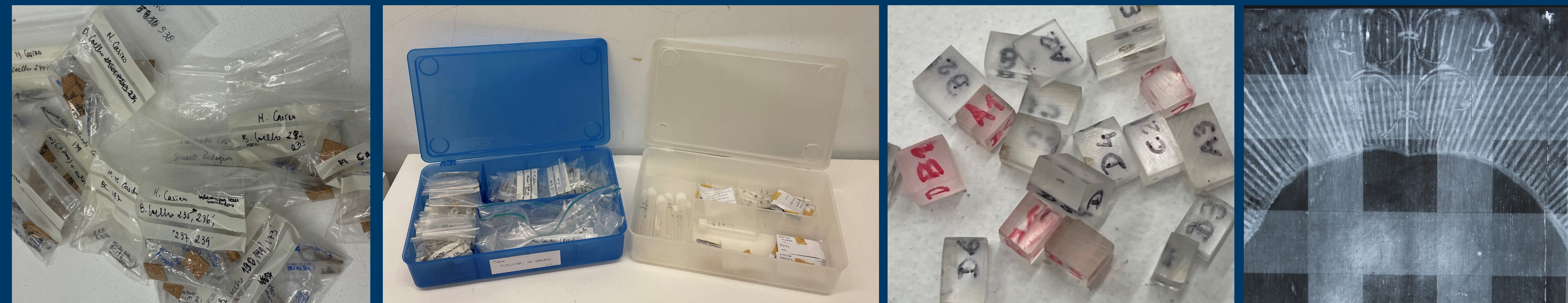


## From sampling to collection: the Sample Collection from Universidade Católica Portuguesa

Eva Direito<sup>1</sup>, Rui Bordalo<sup>1</sup>, Nuno Camarneiro<sup>1</sup>, Patrícia R. Moreira<sup>1</sup>, Maria Aguiar<sup>1</sup>, Eduarda Vieira<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Universidade Católica Portuguesa, School of Arts, Research Center for the Science and Technology of the Arts

**Sampling** was an **occasional practice**, being the collection a mere **repository** of past work. It is now seen as a **tremendous source of data** for **research**.



### Description

UCP's sample collection started in the early 2000s with the creation of the degree in Conservation. It grew steadily with all the practical student works, from the undergraduate, master and doctorate degrees, comprising a large diversity of samples. It was also enlarged with works that were restored by UCP's Center of Conservation and Restoration. Parallely, we also have a large collection of painting and sculpture radiographs and wood samples.

Sampling was not always required and it was, and still is, an occasional practice. The collection was always seen as a repository of past work. However, it is now seen as a tremendous source of information full of research potential.

### Strengths

- A great diversity of sampled materials, comprising paintings, wood fragments, ceramics, stone, mortars, tiles, canvas fibers, textiles, and paper
- A large collection of cross-sections from paintings and sculptures from different periods (from the 16<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>th</sup> centuries) comprising different techniques and materials
- Mostly prepared samples ready for analysis

### Challenges

- Finding ways to archive and classify all the samples in practical, accessible, and efficient ways
- Recovering contextualization and correct identification of the samples, as well as research and digital data that is used associated with them
- Crossing information related to different studies and clustering it in useful ways
- Finding ways to extract meaningful and useful data and information from previous works

### Future Opportunities

- To develop and establish organization protocols for better archival procedures
- To establish a systematic ethical sampling for most works of art for future reference
- Development or adaptation of digital tools for data management and data mining
- Crossing the information gathered within the collection and with other external collections