

Paul Messier

Paul Messier is the founder and Pritzker Director of the Lens Media Lab at Yale's Institute for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage. Established in 2015, the focus of the LML is the creation, dissemination, and interpretation of large datasets derived from museum and reference collections of artist materials. Notable among these is the LML's collection of historic photographic papers which is the largest of its kind in the world and was assembled by Paul over the course of decades. As founder of three private companies dedicated to cultural heritage preservation, Paul has published widely, holds two patents covering innovative techniques for the characterization of cultural materials, served elected terms to the Board of Directors of the American Institute for Conservation, and recently completed a multiyear Mellon-funded initiative to establish a department of photograph conservation at the State Hermitage Museum in Saint Petersburg, Russia. Working closely with colleagues, he founded AIC's Electronic Media Group in 1997. With Mona Jimenez, he developed and implemented the TechArcheology project in 2000 which resulted in some of the first peer-reviewed papers to appear in the conservation literature that explicitly focused on works of art in the context of electronic media preservation.