

UC SANTA BARBARA

History of Art & Architecture

2024-25 Events



Avalon Labs @ MIRL, June 13th 2025.

As we reflect on the 2024-25 academic year, the Material / Image Research Lab (MIRL) is excited to share highlights that demonstrate our continued growth and impact across campus and beyond.

Over the year, MIRL welcomed 2,280 visitors, nearly 1,000 more than last year. These visits spanned a wide range of classes engaging directly with art and architectural materials, from blueprints and historical photographs to early Greek vessels, Chinese scrolls, and Andean textiles. We facilitated the use of approximately 300 objects borrowed from the AD&A Museum, the Architecture and Design Collection, and the Library's Special Research Collections.

In total, 15 unique courses held sessions in MIRL, including 48 individual sections. While the majority came from the History of Art & Architecture, we were thrilled to host 26 sections of Classics 40, and Feminist Studies 151AA. We also hosted one researcher from SUNY.

Our team of 11 undergraduate interns, and one graduate researcher, made vital contributions to several key projects this year, including:

- The **Central Coast Native American Modern to Contemporary Art Archive**

- **3D modeling** of our growing teaching collection
- The **NEH-funded Color Film Emergency Project**
- The forthcoming digital exhibition **Object Histories, Making, and Meaning in the Andes**, created in collaboration with the Archives, Memory, and Preservation Lab at the Center for Latin American and Iberian Studies.

On June 13th, we also hosted Avalon Labs, who conducted hyperspectral imaging on three works from the AD&A. Hyperspectral imaging offers a non-destructive, non-invasive method to analyze the composition of materials used in an artwork and reveal hidden elements such as underlying sketches, alterations, and restorations that may have been obscured over time.

Finally, interest in our MIRL-managed digital collections continues to grow. On JSTOR alone, our images were viewed 18,242 times and downloaded 1,029 times. If you're interested in accessing these collections or adding your materials, don't hesitate to reach out.

Thank you to all the faculty, students, and collaborators who helped make the year such a success.

Dr Jeff O'Brien, Curator

Christine Fritsch, Assistant Curator

<https://mirl.arthistory.ucsb.edu/>