

Students' involvement in acting depended, of course, on their capability to speak freely and to communicate in an imaginary situation. Their acting was based partly on common experience of the media, and partly on knowledge and experience of a museum environment. But the key moments in the exercise, the ones that made it valuable for the course, were the moments in which the students had to find and present arguments for the storage reorganization project. Even though the participants in SCD 2008 and the students of preventive conservation programmes seemed not to be taking the exercise 'seriously' enough, it was obvious that they succeeded in provoking reasoned reactions among themselves. In both cases the exercise was about public advocacy for conservation, but the debriefing of the Emergency Decisions exercise at SCD 2008 showed how it could be valuable for teaching purposes in sharing decisions. This was because participants were able to recognize the key moments of shared decision-making from an emergency situation point of view.

### 'Reading' cultural heritage items

The Reading Cultural Heritage Items session within SCD 2008 took place at the Sacred Mountain of Varallo site, as a part of the Exploring Conservation Options unit of the course. It was conceived as a group exercise with the aim of demonstrating a process of survey recording. The approach highlighted the impact of subjectivity in this process, encouraging participants to involve all their senses in this 'site experience'. The task was to explore the character of the site, in this case a particular 'station' within the site, from three different perspectives – that is on the macro, meso and micro levels – through isolating the senses one by one. The participants were to record their findings graphically and verbally. What came out as a result from some of the groups was more than visual and verbal evidence. The groups used various means of expressing their appreciation of the site, including artistic expression. Even though they took a different approach to the survey and the presentation, they all perceived the same character defining features of the site.

### Survey exercise in a storage area

Testing the 'reading items' concept in a museum storage area might have seemed a needless addition to an almost standardized survey exercise. There is no macro, meso and micro level of perception in a storage area, compared to the distinction between the levels that can be made on a site. Also there is an important element missing here. The exercise is supposed to be about identifying the significance of cultural heritage items and their current state. However, a storage survey is not principally aimed at the state and values of the collection, but rather at the conditions it is kept in. Nevertheless, the students of preventive conservation were given instructions for the storage survey in the Natural History Museum in Belgrade,