

BIO



MAHMOUD FATHY

Mount Making Specialist and Senior Conservator
Grand Egyptian Museum

badawi.mahmoud@gmail.com

Mahmoud Fathy is a seasoned expert in the field of museum mount making, with a robust background in mathematics education and extensive experience in both museum conservation and mount making. With a degree in Education specializing in Mathematics from Ain Shams University, Mahmoud has over a decade of experience as a mathematics teacher, teaching in national and international schools while also leading educational initiatives. Since 2015, Mahmoud has expanded his expertise to include the intricacies of museum mount making, focusing on the design, assessment, and construction of mounts for a variety of artifacts. His work spans across several countries, including Egypt, the USA, and Germany, where he has conducted specialized training programs on mount making for museum staff and professionals. Mahmoud is passionate about preserving cultural heritage through innovative and effective mount making solutions. He has developed and delivered numerous training courses aimed at enhancing the skills of museum professionals, ensuring that artifacts are displayed safely and effectively. His approach combines hands-on training with a deep understanding of the materials and techniques required for high-quality mount making.

ABSTRACT

New Trends in Cushion Mounts: Enhancing Artifact Protection and Display

Cushion mounts have become increasingly popular in the field of artifact conservation due to their ability to provide both support and shock absorption. This paper explores the latest trends in cushion mount design, highlighting innovations that enhance artifact protection and display. By examining new materials, technologies, and design approaches, the paper offers a comprehensive overview of how cushion mounts are evolving to meet the needs of modern museums and conservation practices.

The paper begins by outlining the fundamental principles of cushion mount design, emphasizing the importance of distributing weight evenly and minimizing stress on delicate artifacts. It discusses the role of cushioning materials in absorbing vibrations and impacts, thereby reducing the risk of damage during handling, transport, and display. This theoretical framework sets the stage for an in-depth exploration of new trends in the field.

Recent advancements in materials science have introduced a range of innovative cushioning materials that offer superior performance compared to traditional options. The paper examines the use of advanced foams, gels, and elastomers, which provide enhanced shock absorption and durability. These materials are evaluated based on their conservation properties, including inertness, stability, and resistance to environmental changes. Case studies are presented to demonstrate successful applications of these new materials in real-world scenarios.

The integration of digital technologies in cushion mount design is another emerging trend discussed in the paper. Techniques such as 3D scanning and printing allow for the creation of custom-fit cushion mounts tailored to the specific contours of each artifact. The paper explores the benefits of using digital tools to achieve precise measurements and optimal support, reducing the need for manual adjustments and ensuring a snug fit. Examples of digitally designed cushion mounts illustrate the potential for these technologies to revolutionize traditional mounting practices.

A key focus of the paper is the aesthetic and interpretive aspects of cushion mounts. It argues that modern cushion mounts should not only protect artifacts but also enhance their visual presentation. The paper discusses design strategies that balance functionality with aesthetics, ensuring that mounts are unobtrusive while providing necessary support. Examples of visually appealing cushion mounts that contribute to a coherent exhibition narrative are provided, showcasing how innovative design can enhance the visitor experience.

The paper also addresses the trend towards sustainable and eco-friendly cushion mounts. It explores the use of recyclable and biodegradable materials, highlighting their environmental benefits and potential for long-term conservation. The importance of sustainable practices in museum conservation is emphasized, advocating for the adoption of green technologies and materials in cushion mount design.

The paper concludes with a forward-looking perspective on the future of cushion mounts. It emphasizes the need for continued research and collaboration between conservators, materials scientists, and designers to develop new solutions that address the evolving challenges of artifact preservation and display. The potential for integrating smart materials and responsive technologies in cushion mounts is discussed, pointing towards a future where mounts can dynamically adapt to changing conditions to provide optimal protection.

By combining theoretical insights with practical examples, this paper aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the new trends in cushion mounts. It underscores the importance of innovation in enhancing artifact protection and display, ensuring that museums can effectively preserve and present their collections in a rapidly changing world.