URUGUAYAN MURAL PAINTING HERITAGE: PATRIMONIAL ACTIVATION, SCIENTIFIC CATALOGATION AND ITS SOCIO-HISTORIC REPERCUSSION

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Introduction
The investigation that has taken place within the CRB department to complete the students dissertations, is part of the PROJECT “Diseño e implementación de políticas culturales inclusivas: el muralismo uruguayo contemporáneo como herramienta de activación patrimonial sustentable” [ref. HAR2012-32060], funded by the “Dirección General de Investigación Científica y Técnica del Ministerio de Economía y Competitividad”

Dissertation Objective
This research aims to establish the importance of Maritime Art in the development of Montevideo city and in the 20th Century Uruguayan society.

The painting techniques used on the Montevideo murals will be studied through several analytical methods in order to determine the methodology the artists used. The investigation will compare Eloy Boschi and M. A. Zelayetta murals to define the similarities and differences of their mural creations.

Conclusion
The results of the investigation enable the achievement of a new context for the process of material characterization allowing the students to use part of the skills acquired during the program. It also emphasizes a new aspect by which the techniques and methods applied are closely related to the socio-historic events that surrounded the artists.

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The mural “El Mercado” (1972) placed in the Montevideo Harbor is an example of the conceptual influences left by the Mexican muralist David Alfaro Siqueiros in Uruguay. Analytical examination of the work allows for a better understanding of the methodology and technical approaches the artist undertook on the mural.

Dissertation Objective
The main OBJECTIVE of this project is to promote and activate the cultural significance of the mural painting production created in Uruguay during the 20th centuries as representative spaces and identity holders of key elements for achieving a sustainable social and economic development.

The dissertation projects show the results of the investigation undertaken to CHARACTERIZE THE MATERIALS used in the most representative works of several Uruguayan painters by means of Fourier transform infrared (FTIR) Spectroscopy, Light Microscopy (LM), Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM) and X-ray Diffraction (XRD).

Proyect Objective
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The scientific characterization from the paintings samples taken during the 2011 campaign, were analyzed by means of a morphological and chemical study LM, SEM/EDX and FTIR-ATR, by the Uruguayan Muralists of the 20th century. The study takes into account the emerging national industry that allowed for industrial products to be also used as artist materials.