



Glasrestaurierung am Naumburger Dom, Domplatz 14, 06618 Naumburg

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Authors: Sarah Jarron, Jana Hildebrandt, Mayre Maquiné and Emily Yates

Corresponding Author: **Sarah Jarron**

The Inherited Condition: the complex methodology required to conserve the West Choir Windows of Naumburg Cathedral, Germany

The windows in the West Choir of Naumburg Cathedral have been exposed to many alterations over the centuries. These figurative windows were originally installed between 1241 and 1250, during the construction of the Choir building. The whole ensemble or *Gesamtkunstwerk* was a key factor in the Cathedral gaining World Heritage status in 2018.

Today, three of the five windows contain considerable expanses of original glazing, as well as nineteenth and twentieth-century additions from previous restorations. Two windows were entirely remade in the nineteenth century with sympathetic designs.

Each of these restorations has significantly and negatively impacted upon the current condition of the stained glass. Whilst all introduced materials can attain historic value over time, it is clear that many of the techniques and materials applied to the windows of the West Choir have created substantial conservation challenges. The nineteenth-century glass exhibits extreme paint loss and craquelé of the yellow, blue and purple glasses. The thirteenth-century glass exhibits severe corrosion, fragile paint and acrylate residues as a result of preparations for *Jacobi-plating* in the 1940s.

This paper will describe the restoration history and the balanced methodology required to unify this scheme of windows, whilst also addressing the urgent interventions needed to conserve them.

