



Press Release

The Hunt Frieze of the Tomb of Philip II at Aigai (Vergina): Investigation of ancient colour using cutting-edge technologies.

Institute of Historical Research, Section of Greek and Roman Antiquity

The first phase of the interdisciplinary, non-destructive scientific investigation of the Hunt Frieze that adorns the façade of the Tomb of Philip II took place at the archaeological site of Aigai (UNESCO monument), from 8 to 27 March 2023. The study is part of the research project ReVis, funded by the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation (HFRI). The project is carried out by the Institute of Historical Research of the National Hellenic Research Foundation, in collaboration with the XRF Laboratory of the Institute of Nuclear and Particle Physics – National Centre for Scientific Research “Demokritos”, and the Ephorate of Antiquities of Emathia – Ministry of Culture and Sports. In terms of research infrastructure, ReVis is also supported by the MOLAB (Mobile Laboratory), a world-class distributed infrastructure providing access to a set of mobile equipment and related competencies, funded by the IPERION HS consortium, a unique European research infrastructure for Heritage Science (Horizon 2020). The collaborating institutions are the XRAYlab of the Istituto di Scienze del Patrimonio Culturale (ISPC), Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR) in Catania, the Centro di Eccellenza SMAArt, Università degli studi and the Istituto di Scienze e Tecnologie Chimiche “Giulio Natta”, CNR, in Perugia. Using state-of-the-art equipment, the researchers will apply the most advanced methods and technologies, in order to detect the pigments and the technique used for the wall-painting, as well as iconographic elements which are no longer visible to the naked eye. The ReVis project highlights the key importance of interdisciplinarity and state-of-the-art technology in the art historical and archaeological study of the Hunt Frieze, which, owing to its exceptional artistry and great historical significance, is the most renowned painting of classical antiquity.

The research project entitled “The Hunt Frieze of Tomb II at Vergina, Greece: A Novel Interdisciplinary Approach for the Scientific Investigation and Revisualization of a Painted Masterpiece of the Classical World” is supported by the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation (H.F.R.I.) under the “2nd Call for H.F.R.I. Research Projects to support Faculty Members & Researchers” (Project Number: 4366).



Image 1. Archaeological site of Aigai. Façade of the Tomb of Philip II. Scientific investigation of the wall-painting with non-destructive methods of analysis, performed by the collaborating laboratories of the ReVis project, March 2023 (Photo Hariclia Brecolaki).

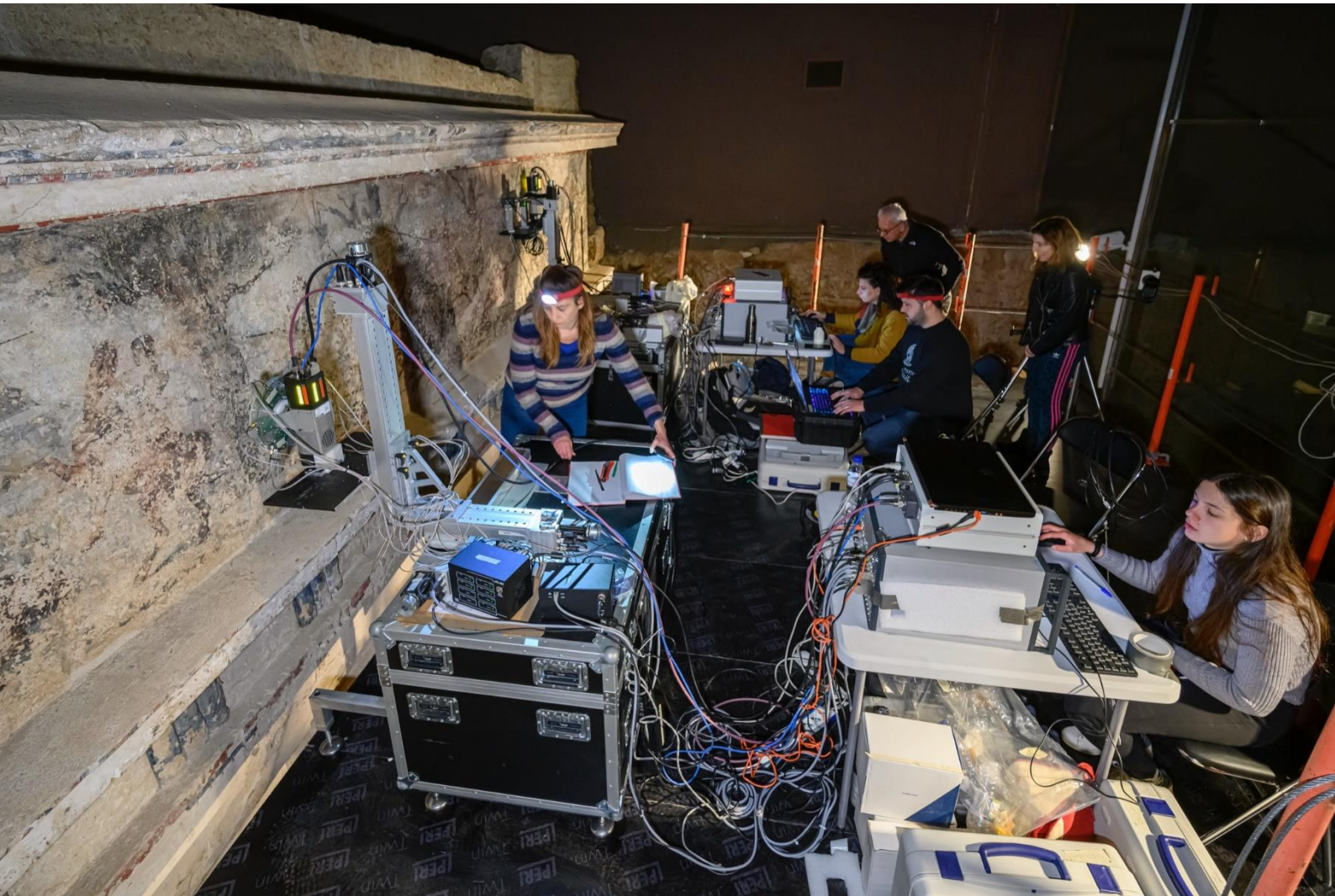


Image 2. Archaeological site of Aigai. Façade of the Tomb of Philip II. Scientific investigation of the wall-painting with MAXRF, XRD performed by the team of the XRAYlab, ISPC/CNR, Catania, and the INPP "DEMOKRITOS", Athens, March 2023 (Photo Christos Simatos).



Image 3. Archaeological site of Aigai. Façade of the Tomb of Philip II. 3D photogrammetric registration of the wall-painting, performed by the team of XRAYlab, ISPC/CNR, Catania, March 2023 (Photo Christos Simatos).



Image 4. Archaeological site of Aigai. Façade of the Tomb of Philip II. Elemental mapping of the pigments of the wall-painting with MAXRF, performed by the team of XRAYlab, ISPC/CNR, Catania, March 2023 (Photo Christos Simatos).