Archaeometry

An ancient painting on textile, a fresco, a bronze sculpture, a wooden icon, a neolithic artefact, a palaeo-Christian basilica, a contemporary sculpture, any object of historical, archaeological, artistic, architectural interest can be studied and interpreted in several ways and aspects.

Archaeometry is the scientific study of the materials from which such objects are made from and of the natural environments in which such object were found.

Archaeometric analyses are: radio-isotopic dating of organic material from archaeological excavations, the petro-geochemical study of a marble statue or of a ceramic, the stratigraphy of a painting, the metallographic analysis of bronze objects, the study of diet of ancient populations through their bones, the discovery of the correct provenance of raw materials.

Archaeometry's connections with Archaeology, from which the term originates, comprises today all the disciplines, technologies and methods useful to extrapolate from the finds, archaeological objects and contexts many information which are necessary for historians, archaeologists, curators, restorers, for a complete historical interpretation of the object or monument, for improving the conservation and to plan a correct restoration.