

The image features a complex, symmetrical paper cut design. At the center is a large, dark circular void. Surrounding this central void are four starburst motifs, each with multiple sharp points radiating from a central floral-like base. These starbursts are arranged in a cross pattern. The entire composition is framed by a series of concentric circles and rings, some of which have small, evenly spaced holes along their inner edges. Interspersed among these geometric elements are stylized floral motifs, including large, multi-petaled flowers and smaller, simpler blossoms. Swirling, spiral patterns are also integrated into the design, particularly in the corners and between the main floral and geometric elements. The overall aesthetic is reminiscent of traditional paper-cut art or decorative bookbinding elements.

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Cover image: Francis Skidmore, Hereford screen, spandrel, photograph. Victoria & Albert Museum (E.430:4-2006) . Digital image courtesy of Victoria & Albert Museum

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Contents

Conserving and Restoring the Hereford Screen, Diana Heath



Conserving and Restoring the Hereford Screen

Diana Heath

Abstract

In this film, the Victoria and Albert Museum's Head of Metals Conservation, Diana Heath, describes her involvement in the intricate conservation and restoration of the Hereford Screen over a number of years. From her first encounter with the screen in 1983, as its fragments arrived in the conservation studio packed in cases stuffed with straw, to the return of the screen to its former glory when it was installed as a whole object in the Metalwork Galleries above the main entrance to the Victoria and Albert Museum, Diana Heath guides us step-by-step through the restoration process of one of the most significant pieces of nineteenth-century metalwork.

Authors

Diana Heath is Head of Metals Conservation at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London.

Acknowledgements

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Wickham (Assistant Curator), and Diana Heath (Lead Conservator), along with the individual conservators and specialists who planned and carried out the work.

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[Watch Video](#)

Figure 1.

Diana Heath, *Conserving and Restoring the Hereford Screen*, video essay, 2017. Digital image courtesy of Film by Jonathan Law

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