3D SCANNING OF CULTURAL HERITAGE:
When digital technologies meet the historical know-how

Gaël Hamon, Founder and Director, Art Graphique & Patrimoine

As a son and grandson of stonecutters, I understood quite early that I was made for this traditional craft. Nonetheless, I never liked predetermined careers: curious and impatient by nature, I promptly started to focus on technological innovations and their potential for historical monuments restoration projects and diagnosis.

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Mae’r ddogfen hon hefyd ar gael yn y Gymraeg | This document is also available in Welsh.
That was the beginning of my adventure with Art Graphique & Patrimoine, a forerunner startup which has been working for 25 years in the sector of new technologies for cultural heritage. Today AGP is a major actor in the field of 3D digitisation, BIM modelling, augmented and virtual reality experiences for cultural mediation purposes.

The importance of 3D survey for preserving historical monuments has recently proven all its value in the case of Notre-Dame of Paris. In fact, the 3D mapping carried out by AGP made possible the record of an authentic digital double of the “Forest” (the wooden carpentry of the cathedral) lost during the fire on 15th April 2019.

Notre-Dame is only one example of the work led by our team of specialists on more than 2000 monuments in France (from the Mont-Saint-Michel to the Pont du Gard) and in 18 countries all over the world. This talk will aim to clarify the process of the digital survey according to the original methods introduced by AGP. The presentation will highlight the positive impact of these practices and their contribution to all the professional stakeholders of cultural heritage restoration, especially by dealing with the case study of Notre-Dame. This complex profession, which can be compared to “radiology” applied to monuments and works of art, is based on combined skills of a multidisciplinary team, made up of stonemasons, art historians, archaeologists, architects, surveyors and graphic designers.
Biography

Gaël Hamon is one of the most recognized specialists in the field of surveying and the promotion of heritage preservation. After gaining a lengthy experience in the restoration of prestigious structures, he founded AGP with the help of Hervé Quelin in 1994. Holder of a BPMH professional diploma in historical monuments and a gold medal for the best international stonecutter award at the Olympiades des Métiers, he is currently the vice-chairman of Appareilleurs de France and a jury member for the MOF craftsmen competition. He regularly speaks at the INP and the universities of Poitiers, Paris VIII, and Aix-en-Provence.