

Rossella Catanese (Sapienza Università di Roma), *Repainting the mechanical ballet. Restoration of colours in 'Ballet mécanique' by Fernand Léger*

This paper comes from a research carried out two years ago during the Haghefilm Foundation internship programme. This restoration project has been a case study for my Ph.D. thesis. The EYE Film Institute decided to restore their print of *Ballet mécanique*, cubist painter Fernand Léger's masterpiece of the European 1920's Avant-garde. The Dutch nitrate copy of *Ballet mécanique* is unique: it is a coloured copy with both some tinted and many hand-painted sections, and additionally contains images of paintings made by Fernand Léger. For the Filmmuseum, Haghefilm acquired a 2K digital scan in order to produce both a black and white preservation element for the entire film, as well as a Digital Intermediate for the colour parts (thus requiring positive editing for the projection prints). But another experimental project has been proposed, i.e. to produce another, unique black and white positive copy with hand-painted or tinted sections matching, as closely as possible, the nitrate original.