

# COMBINATION OF INFRARED IMAGING TECHNIQUES FOR THE STUDY OF UNDERLYING FEATURES IN THE SANTA MARIA IN COSMEDIN ALTARPIECE

S. CECCARELLI<sup>1</sup>, N. ORAZI<sup>1</sup>, C. CICERO<sup>1</sup>, F. MERCURI<sup>1</sup>, S. PAOLONI<sup>1</sup>, A. C. FELICI<sup>2</sup>, F.  
MATERA<sup>3</sup>, M. NUZZO<sup>4</sup> and U. ZAMMIT<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Rome Tor Vergata, Dept. of Industrial Engineering, Roma, Italy

<sup>2</sup>University of Rome "Sapienza", Dept. of Basic and Applied Sciences for Engineering, Roma, Italy

<sup>3</sup>Private Restorer, Roma, Italy

<sup>4</sup>Ministry for Cultural Heritage, Special Superintendence of Archeology, Arts and Landscape of Rome,  
Roma, Italy

**Abstract:** *This paper presents the study carried out on the painted altarpiece preserved inside the Santa Maria in Cosmedin Basilica in Rome by combining three imaging techniques working in the near and middle infrared range. The studied artwork is characterised by multiple layers of repainting and restorations, overlapped during the centuries for stylistic adjustments and conservative purposes up to the present aspect. The results of this work allowed the detection of several structural defects of the wooden support and the identification of graphical and pictorial features hidden under the visible layer, important for the historical and artistic characterisation of the artefact.*

**KEYWORDS:** INFRARED IMAGING, REFLECTOGRAPHY, THERMOGRAPHY, PAINTED ALTARPIECE, UNDERDRAWINGS, *PENTIMENTI*.