

K1696 - Treatment proposal, 1992

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART
PAINTING CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

TREATMENT PROPOSAL March 1992

Antwerp Artist
Martyrdom of Saint Catherine
oil on wooden support (transfer)
1932.2.18, Samuel W. Kress Collection

DIMENSIONS: H.: 43.2 cm (24 1/2")
W.: 318.2 cm (46 5/16")

SUMMARY

The varnish layers and the retouching are discolored and the image has an overall dull appearance. Illumination of the surface with UV light shows the presence of extensive retouching throughout the sky and in patches in the landscape. It may be assumed that the paint layer of *Martyrdom of Saint Catherine* is extensively abraded.

The painting was transferred from a wooden support (such as an oak or poplar panel) to plywood sometime before 1936, presumably because of the poor condition of the support. X-radiography reveals a hatched ground and paint layer which are pitted with small and medium-size losses (up to four or five centimeter). At this time, no structural treatment is necessary as the ground and paint film are well adhered to its new support.

UV-illumination shows a strongly fluorescing natural resin (rest.) layer, suggesting that the varnish layers are quite discolored. Given the painting's poor visual appearance it is recommended that the varnish layer and the retouching be removed and replaced with suitable, reversible and non-yellowing materials.

Submitted by: 
Date: March 26, 1992
Suzanne P. Grissold
Conservator

IDENTIFIER

DOC15829

ARCHIVAL ITEM TYPE

Conservation Report

CREATOR

National Gallery of Art, Washington, District of Columbia

DATE

1992

CITATION

National Gallery of Art, Painting Conservation Department Records

1 RELATED ART OBJECT



K1696

Antwerp 16th Century (Possibly Matthys Cock)

The Martyrdom of Saint Catherine

National Gallery of Art, Washington, District of Columbia

RECORD LINK

KRESS COLLECTION DIGITAL ARCHIVE

<https://kress.nga.gov/Detail/archival/DOC15829>