Harriet Owen Hughes

41 Knowsley Road Cressington Park Liverpool L19 0PF 051-427 2008



Conservation of Paintings

41 Bluecoat Chambers School Lane Liverpool L1 3BX 051-708 6808

also at The Conservation Centre Whitechapel, Liverpool L1 6HZ 0151 478 4821

April 22, 2000

Treatment report

Version of the Sistine Madonna

- Extensive areas of raised paint were consolidated with isinglass, using a heated spatula working through tissue paper.
- The painting was removed from its stretcher and strip lined with Beva film to cotton, stretched on a stretcher approximately 20 cms larger than the original, and left for a week or so under gradually incresed tension
- It was then treated, still under tension, face up on the multi purpose table for 4 hours at about 50oC, around 75% RH under low vacuum pressure, then allowed to dry and cool under pressure for about 2 hrs This treatment was repeated four times, and the raised areas were also treated locally with a hot air pencil and a heated spatula while the painting was on the table under pressure, working through melinex film
- The cotton edges were replaced, again using Beva film, but this time three layers so that the cotton edges can serve as a permanent strip lining after this phase of the treatment is complete
- The treatment on the multi purpse table was repeated but the melinex film covering the paint surface was removed from a small areas at a time and further consolidation was carried out using isinglass
- Excess isinglass was removed with damp cotton wool this removed the surface dirt unevenly in some areas (see photograph)
- 7 The painting was restretched to the original stretcher although the paint is now well adhered, some raised cracks remain, and these could only be held flat by lining
- A small hole through the canvas was repaired with Beva film and nylon gossamer
- The painting was varnished with MS2A, the losses filled and the losses and unevenly cleaned areas retouched with MS2A and dry pigments
- 10 Final varnish of MS2A/ Cosmolloid wax 80-H