CALL FOR APPLICATION - WORKSHOP

We are pleased to announce the workshop **Developing lining techniques: Mixing methodologies in the treatment of wax lined paintings**, which is part of the Conserving Canvas Initiative taking place at the National Museum in Gdańsk, 16-19.09.2024.
The workshop will be led by Matteo Rossi Doria (Senior conservator and researcher at CBC Conservazione Beni Culturali).

There will be two lectures during the workshop:
Simon and Tom Bobak (Bobak Conservation)
A brief examination of paste lining in England and an exploration of contemporary practice with case studies
Christopher McGlinchey (Senior Research Scholar, The Conservation Center, Institute of Fine Arts, New York University)
Beva 371: Optimization of the Low Temperature Performance of the Ethylene Vinyl Acetate Heat-Seal Adhesive for the Lining of Paintings on Canvas.

The workshop is aimed at early to mid-career painting conservators from Poland, Ukraine, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

Length of workshop: 4-days, 16-19.09.2024
Instructor: Matteo Rossi Doria (Senior conservator and researcher at CBC Conservazione Beni Culturali).
Lectures: Simon and Tom Bobak (Bobak Conservation), Christopher McGlinchey (Senior Research Scholar, The Conservation Center, Institute of Fine Arts, New York University)
Format: lectures, demonstration, discussion, practical sessions – practice on mock-ups
Number of participants: 20
Workshop language: English

APPLICATION OPEN UNTIL JUNE 15th, 2024 (see application details below)

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Workshop

The 4-day workshop will focus on the treatment of a painting from the collection of the National Museum in Gdansk and on the use of synthetic adhesives (Beva and acrylics) with water based adhesives gels. This approach will present to the participants different ways to face the typical problems of aged and weak wax linings and encourage the use of a mix of different strategies and methodologies. The selected painting will go through the different steps of treatment, surface protection, lining removal and the reduction of wax layers, paint layers consolidation, structural reinforcements (tears and other mechanical damages) and the application of a new lining. Each of these steps will be described and discussed with participants to facilitate a shared evaluation mind-set and a transparent decision making process. A general introduction to some insights of structural canvas paintings conservation will open the workshop. Apart from working on the painting, case mock-ups will be used to test different adhesives and application methodologies. The aim of the workshop is to show a sustainable approach that considers the difficulties conservators face depending on the contest in which they work. Simple equipment, accessible and costless materials, and the ability to adapt to different working conditions are part of this approach. This even means a reduction of impact by lowering temperatures and toxicity, avoiding heavy ironing, limiting the use of water and solvents. Reversibility and protection are other important keywords.

Lectures

- **Beva 371: Optimization of the Low Temperature Performance of the Ethylene Vinyl Acetate Heat-Seal Adhesive for the Lining of Paintings on Canvas.**

Description: Beva 371 was introduced in the early 1970s, less than a decade after the class of ethylene vinyl acetate (EVAc) copolymers became commercially available. While the copolymer is ideally suited to adhere to low surface energy substances like paintings previously lined with wax-resin based adhesives, the activation temperature is controlled by an additive classified as a tackifier resin. Early studies indicated successful and increasingly strong activation at 55, 60 and 65 °C. When the original tackifier was discontinued, the substitute resin produced a version of the formulation that only developed tack abruptly at 65 °C, with no effective dhesion below this temperature. The original formulation was considered safer and more desirable because of the lower and broad onset of tack development. These conditions, consistent with if not equivalent to the performance of the original formulation, were re-established in collaboration with the Conservation Center at NYU and the Polymer Chemistry and Polymer Engineering Department at University of Akron, Ohio. Our findings are being shared with conservators and manufacturers of Beva to make the newly reformulated version widely available.

- **Beva 371: Optimization of the Low Temperature Performance of the Ethylene Vinyl Acetate Heat-Seal Adhesive for the Lining of Paintings on Canvas.**

Description: This presentation will discuss the historic reasons for lining, from damages and blistering/flaking paint to precautionary lining as a preventative measure, to avoid structural problems in the future. The thinking behind the kind of result they achieved and the compromises made. The focus will be on Victorian paste linings, as the most commonly encountered lining, it will explore their characteristics and the problems that they present today. The evolution of these techniques, addressing their problems, the introduction of new materials and changing fashions in conservation will also be discussed. Finally, the latest trend of "de-lining" paintings will be commented on.

PARTICIPANTS

The criteria for selection will be:

- Early-to-mid career painting conservators
- Master's degree in art conservation, or equivalent training
- 5 or more years of post-graduate experience in the conservation of paintings
- Eligible applicants will be from Poland, Ukraine and the Baltic States
- Working knowledge of English

COST OF REGISTRATION

Selected participants will receive full funding for participating in the workshop, for travel, accommodation, breakfasts and lunches.

APPLICATION

To apply please send

1) a cover letter including description of experience with structural treatments of paintings on canvas with emphasis on lining treatments

2) curriculum vitae (no more than 2 pages)

3) letter of recommendation (we accept English or Polish).

The above should be compiled in one Word document or PDF and sent to cc.coordinators@mng.gda.pl. Please include the title "**Mixing methodologies** " and your full name in the email subject line. Application deadline is June 15, 2024.

The workshop is made possible with support from the Getty Foundation through its Conserving Canvas Initiative.

For further information on the Conserving Canvas initiative go to: https://www.getty.edu/projects/conserving-canvas/