

**NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART
PAINTING CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT**

EXAMINATION REPORT AND TREATMENT PROPOSAL 21 October 2005

Lucas Cranach the Elder
Princess of Saxony
Oil (est.) on panel
1947.6.2, Ralph and Mary Booth Collection

DIMENSIONS: H. 43.4 cm (17 1/8") W. 34.3 cm (13 1/2")

SUMMARY

This painting was examined in 1989 and the attached 1989 report should be read in conjunction with the information presented herein.

The painting was executed on a single piece of linden¹ with a vertical grain. It is in plane and cradled on verso. The cradle has five fixed vertical members and four moveable horizontal bars. All of the horizontal bars move. The panel is approximately a quarter of an inch thick and has been visibly planed down. Woodworm channels are visible on the back of the panel.

The paint layer appears to be in fairly good condition with some retouching in the sitter's hairline and in small scattered areas.

The overall appearance of the varnish is a sprayed, cloudy surface with large aperture cracks throughout, and a large glossy area at lower right. Under microscopic examination it appears to be pitted and it is difficult to see through the varnish to the surface of the painting in some areas. According to the conservation file, the varnish is a natural resin (est.) with a 1962 spray application of Acryloid B-72 applied to the surface.

¹ See conservation file: Report on the dendrochronological analysis of the panel "Prince of Saxonia" (L. Cranach the elder) 1947.6.1 by Dr. Peter Klein, Hamburg 80, 29.09.1987.

Lucas Cranach the Elder
Princess of Saxony
1947.6.2

TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Carry out sampling and analysis as necessary to aid in the treatment and to better understand the artist's materials and techniques.
2. Remove discolored and disfiguring varnish and inpainting.
3. Consolidate any loose paint using materials as stable and reversible as possible.
4. Check structural condition of panel. Make sure all horizontal members of cradle are mobile, if they are tight, they should be waxed so that they slide more easily.
5. Apply protective coating of stable, reversible varnish.
6. Inpaint losses as necessary using stable, reversible materials.
7. Apply final surface coating of stable reversible varnish.

Submitted by:

31. 10. 05
Date

Kristen J. Loudermilk
Kristen J. Loudermilk
Painting Conservation Intern

Approved by:

11/01/05
Date

Sarah L. Fisher
Sarah L. Fisher
Head of Painting Conservation

11/7/05
Date

Ross Merrill
Ross Merrill
Chief of Conservation

Lucas Cranach the Elder
Princess of Saxony
1947.6.2

"I have carefully examined the painting with the conservator and agreed to the treatment described above"

14.XI.05
Date

John Hand
John Hand
Curator of Early Netherlandish and German Painting

14 NOV 05
Date

Alan Shestack
Alan Shestack
Deputy Director and Chief Curator

11-14-05
Date

Earl A. Powell III
Earl A. Powell III
Director

Approved by:
Art and Education Committee

1/26/06
Date

Elizabeth A. Croog
Elizabeth A. Croog
Secretary and General Counsel