

WALTERS ART GALLERY

PAINTING CONSERVATION: CONDITION REPORT AND PROPOSAL FOR TREATMENT

Date 11/12/90 Acc.# 37.269 Examiner M. Gifford

Artist Lucas Cranach Date \_\_\_\_\_

Subject Portrait of a Lady Dimensions: h \_\_\_\_\_ in. w \_\_\_\_\_ in. th \_\_\_\_\_ in.  
h 36.4-36 cm. w 25.8-26 cm. th 0.6 cm.

Signature: winged dragon Labels/inscriptions/canvas stamps on reverse  
color yellowish location lower left

Medium typical of oil

Consistent with surrounding paint:  
 yes    no    uncertain

FRAMING  Framed     Unframed

sound frame    Painting fit:  
 weak frame    comfortable  
 loose/missing ornaments     loose  
 flaking/loss of finish    tight  
 unsafe hanging hardware    poorly fastened  
 glazed ( glass acrylic    UV filtering)

In need of:  
 painting edge protection/protective backing  
glass/plexiglass sheeting with spacers  
isolation of painting from glazing material  
modification to frame rabbet  
local repair and retouching of frame  
brass straps/new hanging accessories  
new frame to replace present frame - hideous frame

Painting edge protection: none  
frame rabbet lined  
edge stripping  
Backings: good  
poor  
 none

Framing is:  satisfactory     unsatisfactory  
Frame should be taken to frame specialist for appropriate repair replacement.

Storage of frame during treatment: in painting conservation storage

Comment: new frame made by Wayne Reynolds. Ivory-inlaid frame (acquired w/ MSS fragments) fits exactly

PHOTODOCUMENTATION

front    reverse    raking    specular    ultraviolet    infrared    x-ray    detail  
before \_\_\_\_\_  
during \_\_\_\_\_  
after \_\_\_\_\_

Further Scientific Analysis (list sample numbers):  
dispersed pigment    cross-sections    microchemical testing    other

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

CONSTRUCTION

SUPPORT sound unsound  
Fabric  
linen cotton other \_\_\_\_\_  
typical of analyzed  
Weave: Weight: Threads:  
open heavy single  
closed medium double  
fine variable thickness

plain weave \_\_\_\_\_  
twill weave \_\_\_\_\_  
other \_\_\_\_\_  
Thread count \_\_\_\_\_ sq. cm.

Attached to: Stretcher Strainer  
Type \_\_\_\_\_ Material \_\_\_\_\_  
# of members: Original: Keys:  
yes no secure missing  
uncertain lodged behind fabric  
Wood Panel  
Species beech? typical of analyzed  
number of members '  
plywood number of plies

Original size sides may be v. slightly  
shaved, but int. no reduction  
modification to size or shape of painted surface  
panel sl'dly thinned for  
radling - traces of levels still apparent at  
top & bottom edges  
grain vertical  
cut radial tangential?

Other Supports  
Paper Composition board  
Laminate board # of ply \_\_\_\_\_  
Metal Ivory  
Other \_\_\_\_\_

Preparation of support possibly a fibrous layer over the panel in upper  
part - X-ray too overexposed to be sure?

GROUND Medium glue typical of analyzed  
Color white Evidence of second ground/imprimatura color \_\_\_\_\_

Structure: thin even artist primed Consistency: granular  
thick variable commercially primed vehicular  
moderate smooth  
textured  
does not hide support texture

Comment: not clear if a second ground is present from stereomicroscope exam

Underdrawing/Underpaint observed features, technique \_\_\_\_\_

PAINT Medium oil typical of analyzed

Structure: thin to even no impasto Consistency: granular  
thick variable low impasto vehicular  
moderate moderate impasto inclusions  
evidence of pentimenti high impasto  
brushmarking

Comment: there appears to be a gold leaf layer in the green of the dress  
Gray shadows in white sleeves very like under drawing showing through:  
may mimic it?

SURFACE COATING varnish size no coating

Type multiple layers of very heavy natural resin, most recent coating  
daman/Winton 1:1 (1986)

CONDITION

SUPPORT

Support sound unsound  
Fabric Support Panel Support

Tacking edges:

intact worn broken  
lost/cut off

Weak splits caused by locked cradle (see diagram) actively moving & causing paint loss  
Warped convex concave  
washboard

Support is:

Weak/brittle/desiccated \_\_\_\_\_  
Slack/Undulated \_\_\_\_\_  
Corner draws/edge draws \_\_\_\_\_  
Stretcher creases \_\_\_\_\_  
Bulges/dents \_\_\_\_\_  
Punctures \_\_\_\_\_  
Tears/splits \_\_\_\_\_  
Losses \_\_\_\_\_  
Water damage \_\_\_\_\_  
Stains \_\_\_\_\_  
Attack by vermin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mold \_\_\_\_\_  
Other \_\_\_\_\_

Losses \_\_\_\_\_  
Splits \_\_\_\_\_ disjoins \_\_\_\_\_  
Panel thinned slightly (barbs still vis. at top of bottom)  
Panel impregnated \_\_\_\_\_  
Moisture barrier on reverse \_\_\_\_\_  
Water damage \_\_\_\_\_  
Worm damage \_\_\_\_\_  
Mold \_\_\_\_\_  
Other \_\_\_\_\_  
Modification to original size or shape \_\_\_\_\_

Auxiliary Support - Lining

Glue/Paste \_\_\_\_\_ Wax or Wax-resin \_\_\_\_\_  
Non-penetrating \_\_\_\_\_  
Fabric auxiliary support \_\_\_\_\_  
Solid auxiliary support \_\_\_\_\_  
Loose lining \_\_\_\_\_

Auxiliary Support

Cradled Battered \_\_\_\_\_  
Other \_\_\_\_\_

Lining is sound delaminating  
inadequate

Auxiliary support is sound unsound  
Cradle members are: frozen ineffective  
causing structural problems  
Other \_\_\_\_\_

Other Old dipping through entire panel secured by a vertical cradle member  
Never seems well aligned.  
Comment: 5 splits caused by frozen cradle (see diagram) are  
actively moving and causing on-going paint loss (treated 1987, 1990 etc)

GROUND AND PAINT

Cracks: Aperture Edges: Degree  
Drying wide narrow sharp rounded minimal moderate extensive  
Mechanical wide narrow sharp rounded minimal moderate extensive

Crackle patterns: canvas weave stretching tension sigmoid  
wood grain stretcher bar feather other primarily horizontal

Cupping \_\_\_\_\_  
Blistering \_\_\_\_\_ Tenting \_\_\_\_\_ Buckling \_\_\_\_\_  
Blind or exposed cleavage \_\_\_\_\_ Flaking along lower splits at lower right  
between ground and support \_\_\_\_\_ between ground and paint \_\_\_\_\_ interlayer cleavage \_\_\_\_\_  
Friable \_\_\_\_\_ Powdering \_\_\_\_\_  
Old losses some primarily along splits  
Rabbit rub \_\_\_\_\_ Abrasions \_\_\_\_\_  
Scratches \_\_\_\_\_ Gouges \_\_\_\_\_  
Deformations \_\_\_\_\_  
Discoloration \_\_\_\_\_ Staining \_\_\_\_\_  
Efflorescence \_\_\_\_\_ Mold \_\_\_\_\_  
Heat \_\_\_\_\_ Fire \_\_\_\_\_ Smoke damage \_\_\_\_\_  
Water damage \_\_\_\_\_ Blanching \_\_\_\_\_

GROUND AND PAINT

Solvent Resistance

Safe in: \_\_\_\_\_

Heat Resistance

Safe to: \_\_\_\_\_

Previously cleaned      Abraded

Inpaints      Overpaints      Maroger medium

Other/Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

SURFACE COATING

glossy

matte

transparent

dull

Cracks

Crazing

Blanching

Bloom

Delamination

Accretions

Scratches

Grime-slight

Abrasion

Discoloration - slight

Ultraviolet light examination streakiness apparent in heavy varnish. <sup>Fairly broad</sup> overpaint along split to right of sitter's face and into dress

Removability:

Safely possible

May be possible, but not recommended

Some sensitivity may be encountered

Not possible

Removable in: \_\_\_\_\_

Surface is

Satisfactory

In need of:

grime removal

reforming

Unsatisfactory

varnish removal

local retouching

varnishing overall

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

IN BRIEF THE PAINTING IS:

Generally sound

fit for

exhibition

travel as is

Generally unsound

unfit for

exhibition

travel as is

Structural condition is:

Excellent

Good

Satisfactory

Fair

Poor

Appearance is:

Excellent

Good

Satisfactory

Fair

Poor

Consideration for future shipping/handling:

Should not travel (will be installed in panel tray with minimal restraint)

CONDITION SUMMARY AND TREATMENT PROPOSAL

Presented by:

Approved by:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_