

*MSU Local Section of the American Chemical Society
MSU Department of Chemistry & Kresge Art Museum present:*

Preserving the Past: Art and Science at the Detroit Institute of Arts



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Thursday, November 8
7:30 Lecture

Kresge Art Museum
MSU Campus

Abstract

The vast collection of the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA) includes paintings, photographs, drawings, textiles, decorative arts and sculpture. Conservation scientists analyze and study the materials and methods used to create artistic and historic works. Techniques typically employed include X-radiography, polarizing and UV fluorescence microscopy, X-ray fluorescence and diffraction, scanning electron microscopy and Raman microscopy. In collaboration with conservators and curators, the scientific analyses are used to help resolve questions of condition, technique and authenticity; support the acquisition of works of art; determine appropriate storage or display materials; and guide the selection of conservation treatments. A number of case histories will be presented to illustrate the application of traditional and modern analytical methods to the study of works of art, archaeological artifacts and ethnographic objects.