Cleaning of Acrylic Painted Surfaces
Teaching Note

Introduction
Because of their properties, acrylic paints can be a particularly difficult material to clean and can pose significant challenges for conservators. The Cleaning of Acrylic Painted Surfaces (CAPS) workshop aims to disseminate new research on materials and cleaning systems for acrylic paints, and to help conservation professionals put this research into practice with works of art. The objectives of the workshop are to:

- Communicate the results of recent scientific research and new developments in practice
- Stimulate a dialogue between researchers and conservators about the application of new research and technical insights to the conservation of acrylic painted surfaces
- Develop critical thinking skills that will help participants design project-specific cleaning systems in their own labs
- Identify areas where further research is needed

The Workshop and Pedagogy
The CAPS workshop is aimed at conservators, and places an emphasis on hands-on application and testing of a range of materials for cleaning, couched in a framework of cleaning systems theory that promotes critical evaluation and problem solving. The workshop begins with an overview of recent advances in the cleaning of acrylic paints and the majority of the workshop consists of hands-on work with painted samples. Experimentation and empirical observation, guided by workshop instructors and peers, is used to explore how cleaning systems work with acrylic paint surfaces and how they can be tailored for specific conditions and problems.

The teaching team is crucial to the success of this way of working. Instructors are leading the research into acrylic paints and their conservation, and communicate closely about new developments in research and practice. New information is incorporated into the workshop and made available through a workshop website which remains accessible to all CAPS workshop participants.

New participants engage with resources and teaching materials before the workshop via this website. Essential readings provide an introduction to the theory of cleaning systems and to the latest research on acrylic paints. The website also hosts teaching outlines, technical notes, and other resources that provide context. A series of nine short instructional videos give background for the hands-on work of the CAPS workshop, providing both technical instruction and a visual sense of how the work of mixing solutions and calibrating instruments is carried out. The videos also serve as a reference once the workshop is over.

Over the course of the workshop series, which will take place in the US, Australia, Europe and SE Asia, the hope is to build a community of practice that is committed to sharing information and refining approaches to cleaning acrylic painted surfaces. This is crucial, since it is the information generated from the use of CAPS cleaning approaches by conservators that will guide future research and cleaning practice. The CAPS workshops are part of the GCI's Research into Practice Initiative which seeks to facilitate the application of new research to practical conservation problems, drawing upon the perspectives of both scientists and conservators.

Much of the material described above, including the workshop schedule, teaching outlines, technical notes and instructional videos is made available to the public on this site. This material is free to use

and, considered together, provides a detailed picture of the CAPS workshop. Further information about the Cleaning of Acrylic Painted Surfaces workshops can be found at the GCI website.

Use of this material

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