Cleaning of Acrylic Painted Surfaces
July 12 – 15, 2016
The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art
Sarasota, Florida

SESSION TITLE: Recent Research into Cleaning: Wet Cleaning of Acrylic Paints

Practical Session 1: General Introduction to Acrylic Paint Properties

INSTRUCTOR: Bronwyn Ormsby

ABSTRACT
Since the early 2000s, a significant body of largely scientific-based research has been carried out into the properties of acrylic paints, including exploring the effects of surface cleaning treatments. This session summarizes research findings with respect to changes in bulk film and paint surface properties such as gloss, color, flexibility, surface chemistry, swelling and topography after surface cleaning treatment. The effects of different solvent systems (e.g. aqueous vs. mineral spirit) are compared. Participants will explore simple paint properties in the practical session, such as flexibility, plasticity, gloss, surface texture, hardness, and swelling.

OBJECTIVES
- To provide participants with up-to-date understanding of recent research exploring the effects of wet (and some dry) surface cleaning treatments on acrylic paint films and works of art.
- To explore and understand how the properties of acrylic paints vary with paint brand, age, pigment type, cleaning system type, cleaning system application and exposure time.

CONTENT OUTLINE
A recent history of the research into paint properties and the effects of wet cleaning treatments will be delivered as a PowerPoint presentation. The practical session will involve assessing provided paint samples and carrying out some simple tests to establish basic paint properties.

METHODOLOGY
Lecture (morning): PowerPoint presentation.
Practical 1 (afternoon) - General Introduction to Acrylic Paints will be delivered in the studio with time to assess provided samples, carry out swelling tests etc on provided samples, which will then be used for the remaining practical sessions. Cleaning systems will be introduced across practical sessions 3, 4, 5, and 6. These practical sessions are supported by online videos on GCI CAPS site (resource materials).

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Session Outline cont'd.

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🕮 = Essential reading material

💻 = Available online