

Paint sample form: transcription and additions

Cross-section: **MH0579_x02**



Rembrandt circle, Travellers Resting, Royal Picture Gallery Mauritshuis, The Hague, inv. no. 579

From 2009-2012 as part of The Rembrandt Database project, the original paint sample form was transcribed and translated into English by Thamar Weidema, Rembrandt Database associate. The paint sample was re-examined under the light microscope by Annelies van Loon, Paintings Research Scientist Mauritshuis. Information about the pigment composition and paint build-up, along with new insights and results of SEM-EDX and other analysis (where performed), were added to this transcribed sample form.

Light microscopic investigation of paint layers

Sample: MH0579_x02
Researcher(s): Louise Groll
Sample date: 1 August 2008
Sample location: stone wall indicated by dark tones. Taken in the lower right in an area of abrasion. Sample area shows two brown layers: a warm brown layer and dark cool brown / black layer over it. Large black particles visible in the warm brown layer.
Location/area type: architecture
Location/area color: dark brown
Co-ordinates: 27.0 cm from left, 11.0 cm from bottom
Reason(s) for sampling: build-up of darks in the foreground - includes paint layer and priming on paper.
SEM-EDX analysis: yes (Annelies van Loon, FOM-AMOLF 2008)
Related samples: -

Description of paint build-up, described per layer

	Function	Color	Pigments	Paint defects	Remarks
1	ground (on paper)	creamy white	many white pigment particles: lead white; [brown earth pigment, probably umber (as in adhesive)]; [paper fibres]		[paper fibres fluoresce in UV]
2	surface paint layer: stone wall	dark brown	finer and coarser dark brown pigments: organic brown / Kassel earth? (C, Al, Si, Ca, Na, K, Fe, Mn, Cl); also few yellow and red earth particles; also fine carbon black?; dispersed lead (from lower layer)		layer is dark in UV