

The influence of animal glue on mechanical properties of painting canvases



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Glues derived from animal products have been used in the preparation and conservation of canvas paintings for hundreds of years. However, it is not clear how these adhesives contribute to the mechanical strength of a canvas and how this contribution changes over time. This comparative study looks at the effect of age, thickness, and type of animal glue on the mechanical reinforcement that glue sizing provides to canvas. Glues from Isinglass, rabbit skin, bovine hide and bone are compared. The mechanical strength of the canvas and glue system will be measured with a tensile test. This project aims to further understand what mechanical reinforcement traditional animal glue provides to canvas and what variables affect this reinforcement.

MCI
*Topics in
Museum
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