The Structure of Paintings and the Mechanical Properties of Cultural Materials Course

A new four-day course offered by the Smithsonian's Museum Conservation Institute on the structure of paintings and the mechanical properties of cultural materials will be an intense, information-packed seminar for cultural institution professionals and representatives of paint manufacturers.

Topics covered will include:

- The basic concepts of relative humidity, material properties versus structural properties, and the force and mechanical properties of materials
- The drying and film formation of artists paints
- The properties of painting materials and the effects of relative humidity including the dimensional response of materials to relative humidity and temperature
- The mechanical properties of materials (wood, linen, hide glues, gessoes and paints)
- Paintings as structures and failure mechanism
  - The canvas supported painting - relative humidity, temperature, bio-deterioration
  - The wood panel supported painting - relative humidity
- Conservation treatments
- Using modern materials
- The museum environment and determining appropriate RH and temperature settings.

Course organized by Dr. Marion F. Mecklenburg, Senior Research Scientist
Enrollment limited to 20 participants, no tuition
Enrollment requirements: It is recommended that the applicant have some conservation or conservation science experience
Applications due by July 1st, 2008; Finalists for the course will contacted by July 7, 2008.

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