Paint Technology and the Abstract Expressionists

Dr. Stuart Croll
Professor and Chair, Department of Coatings and Polymeric Materials
North Dakota State University

Dr. Croll was previously with Millennium Inorganic Chemicals, a manufacturer of titanium dioxide pigments, where he was the Director of Pigment Research and External Alliances. He earned a degree in physics from the University of London, and subsequently completed a doctorate in physics at the University of Leeds. He first worked in England, then moved to the Division of Building Research in the National Research Council Canada where he studied the internal stresses in coating films that arise during curing. He spent fourteen years at the Sherwin-Williams paint company, where he studied film formation in aqueous and non-aqueous coatings, application rheology, the weathering of coatings, adhesion, dispersion stability and polymer characterization and became the Director of Research in the Coatings Division.

In addition to weathering durability, film formation, and internal stresses in films, Dr. Croll’s research interests include the application of coatings’ and materials science to the preservation and restoration of modern art, and how external events, polymer science, pigment development and analytical instrumentation influence the history of paint technology.

Dr. Croll is an active collaborator in modern paintings conservation research. His presentations on the topic include a keynote address at the symposium Modern Paints Uncovered (Tate/NGA/GCI) held at the Tate Modern in May 2006, and a review of early 20th-century paint technology for Crossing Boundaries: The Impact of House Paints on the Artist’s Palette (Northwestern University Seminar Series in Conservation Science) held at the Art Institute of Chicago in October 2006.

Dr. Croll’s presentation at MCI will address the rapid changes in paint technology that took place during the era of the American Abstract Expressionists. A more detailed presentation abstract will follow shortly. We are thrilled that Dr. Croll will be coming to MCI, and we hope that you will be able to attend his talk.

For those interested in meeting with Dr. Croll after his lecture, please contact Dawn Rogala at RogalaD@si.edu.