

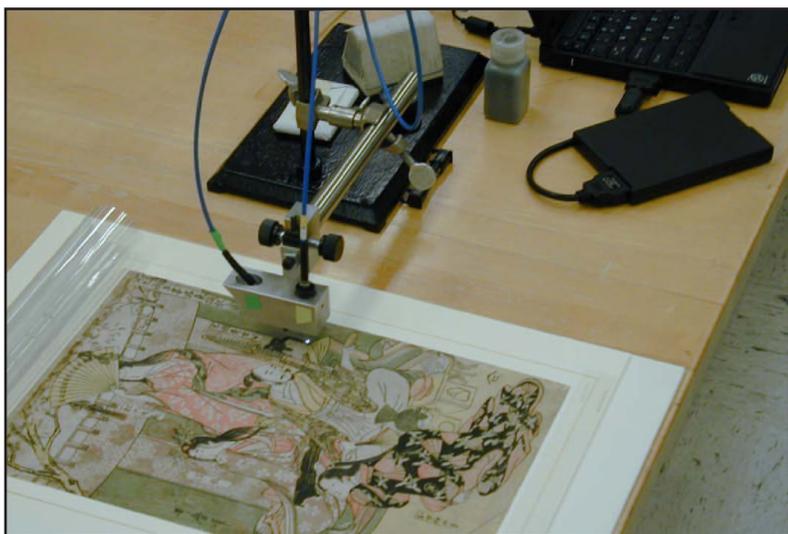


Smithsonian Center for Materials Research and Education

Topics in Conservation Science Lecture

Sensing Sensitivity: Assessing Light Damage Risks with Noninvasive Exposure Tests on Artifacts

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Conventional methods used to analyze and monitor colored artifact materials are usually insufficient to predict, and thus prevent damage to the colors from light exposure. A device has been developed that can provide this information by fading tiny areas on objects. These tests can be done rapidly and without damage to the artifacts. In this lecture, the design and performance of this fading tester will be described. Results of fading tests on a variety of objects will be presented, illustrating both conventional and unconventional uses of the device.

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