



Wet Recovery of Paintings & Their Frames

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PRIORITIZE YOUR COLLECTION **IN ADVANCE**

Considerations

- Market value
- Historic significance
- Importance to your collection
- Sensitivity
- Location

Sensitive Types

- Unlined
- Unvarnished
- Wood & paper support
- Pastels
- Water soluble grounds & paint layers
- Acrylics

Paintings Are Vulnerable To

- RH (relative humidity) extremes & rapid swings
- Water drips, spills & submersion
- Staining from caustic liquids
- Scratches & abrasion
- Local pressure
- Impact punctures & tears
- Vibration, blows & wind
- High heat (blisters & scorches paint)
- Temperature extremes- acrylic brittle @ 41 – 50 degrees Fahrenheit
- Insects & mold
- Improper materials; Storage, exhibit, framing

Basic Paintings Handling Tips

- Handle as briefly and infrequently as possible
- Plan the move by clearing a path and preparing a receiving area before beginning the move
- When gripping, avoid squeezing pressure and touching the paint surface with fingers
- Set down gently, preferably on a cushion
- Examine the painting for flaking paint, if stable examine the reverse
- Determine the security of the framing
- Small framed paintings carry face in supporting side and bottom
- Don't carry from frames top bar alone, they may fall apart
- Don't carry from hanging wire
- Mid to oversized paintings carry with two handlers or use a dolly, keeping eyes on the paint layer
- Set gilt frames on padded blocks or protruding ornaments may be lost
- Collect and preserve any detached fragments for treatment
- Carry and lay face up if actively flaking, but support the canvas cavities from behind
- Avoid local pressure front and back from leaning into a protrusion or improper stacking
- Backing boards are important preventive measures