

SCREEN WITH VIEWS OF HUNTING

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ABOUT

Four-fold screen. Canvases nailed into a wooden frame and painted on both sides. Various hunting scenes portrayed on one side, framed in elements of architectural decor and painted in an illusory way. The upper part of the wooden frame has been cut out in a figural way – along the acanthus and in a shell silhouette. These wooden upper sections have been painted. On the other side are acanthi painted in a simplified way in a medallion-type frame.

The work of art comes from southern Germany. A lot of repair work had been done to the item prior to its restoration. Patches have been put over the some of the tears and painted over. Repainting of the wooden frame has taken place. Two layers of lacquer have been established. During the restoration, it was also established that the leather joints and the glued-on pieces of fabric in the joints of the four screens were done at a later time and are not the originals. Chemical analyses, UV and visual examination, as well as identification of the nailing assisted in the accurate determination of the stratification of later periods.

CATALOGUE INFORMATION:

AUTHOR : UNKNOWN

DATED: EARLY 18TH CENTURY

MATERIAL: FABRIC, WOOD, LEATHER

TECHNIQUE: OILS

SIZE: 192 X 254 CM

OWNER, STORAGE SITE: RUNDĀLE PALACE MUSEUM



Fig. 3. A fragment of the screen before the restoration

RESTORATION

A decision was made to accurately document all of these improvements and the later period stratification and to leave some of them as evidence of the item's "life", which do not interfere overall with its artistic perception, but provide an additional story.

During the chemical analysis it was established that lead white pigment, cinnabar (red), as well as orpiment (yellow), also known as Chinese, Spanish or Persian imperial yellow was used in various zones. It is a clean and shiny yellow pigment, composed of arsenic sulphide, found in nature, but also produced artificially. It was used by the ancient Egyptians and has been used in all European painting schools right up until the 17th century. Orpiment is highly poisonous.

Complicated restoration works were carried out with different materials (wood, painted canvas, leather, metal), which once again confirms how wide and versatile knowledge a restorer should have, as well as cooperation with professionals from other specialties.



Fig. 4. A fragment of the screen after the restoration



Fig. 1. The top of the screen before restoration



Fig. 2. The top of the screen after restoration



Fig. 5. Fragment of screen (wooden leg missing, leather connection damaged) before restoration



Fig. 6. Fragment of screen after restoration