

Presentation 1. Alar Nurkse, Art Museum of Estonia

The Tallinn Bosch-Bruegel painting: Conservation and technical research on 'Expulsion of Money-lenders from the Temple' at the Art Museum of Estonia

This presentation will mainly deal with the conservation of the 'Money-lenders' painting of the Kadriorg Art Museum, with brief references to the results of the technical investigations of the painting, which were carried out in 2007–2011. The materials and examinations of the painting indicate that it has been restored several times. The last period of the structural treatment of the conservation was in 1999–2000. Then the damages to the painting were repaired with sturgeon glue and the old back support construction was replaced with new stickers of the prototype of the Florence method. The ongoing Bosch-Bruegel research project made it possible to continue with the conservation work. In 2011 the aged and discoloured secondary varnish layers, as well as re-touchings, were removed. For this major intervention, gel solvents proved to be the optimal solution and, in the last stage of cleaning, a micro scalpel, under close inspection through a binocular microscope magnification, was used. The technical investigations carried out on the painting provided rich material regarding the dating, creation and conservation history of the painting.

Author Biography

Alar Nurkse is a Senior Painting Conservator at the Art Museum of Estonia, with a special interest in technical studies. His main speciality is the conservation of oil paintings on panels. He trained from 1977–1981 at the V. Serov Art School in St.Petersburg (BA) and from 1981–1987 at the Repin State Academic Institute of Painting, Sculpture and Architecture (The Academy of Fine Arts) in St. Petersburg, where he earned an MA in the conservation of oil and tempera paintings.

He has worked at the Art Museum of Estonia since 1987 and has taught the course *The History of Painting Materials and Techniques* at the Estonian Academy of Arts since then.