

Dr. Ron Spronk, Hieronymus Bosch Chair at Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen (Professor of Art History at Queens University, Canada)

In his own hand? Observations on technique in two paintings by Hieronymus Bosch

In this presentation, Ron Spronk will compare the painting technique of two panels that are traditionally attributed to Hieronymus Bosch: the Ghent *Carrying of the Cross* and the *Christ Mocked (Crowning with Thorns)* in London. In their production history, these paintings differ rather dramatically, especially in regard to the style of underdrawing and the level of transparency of the first paint layers. On the paint surfaces, however, striking similarities can also be observed. Discussing these observations in the context of earlier technical studies of works attributed to Bosch, Spronk will argue that these differences and similarities can be explained from their production within a workshop situation.

Author Biography

Ron Spronk, Technical Art Historian, who received his Ph.D. from Groningen University in the Netherlands, is a leading specialist in the technical examination of paintings.

Among Spronk's many publications on the technical examination of paintings are two award-winning books: *Prayers and Portraits; Unfolding the Netherlandish Diptych*, (co-authored with John Hand and Cathy Metzger), which received the 2007 *George Wittenborn Memorial Book Award* from the North American guild of Art Librarians, and *Mondrian: The Transatlantic Paintings* (co-authored with Harry Cooper), which was awarded the 2002 *College Art Association & Heritage Preservation Joint Award for Distinction in Scholarship and Conservation*.

From 1994 to 2007 Spronk worked in different capacities at the Harvard University Art Museums in Cambridge, Massachusetts, most recently as Research Curator. He is currently Professor of Art History at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, Canada and Hieronymus Bosch Chair at Radboud University in Nijmegen, the Netherlands. He is presently also coordinating the technical documentation of the Ghent Altarpiece.