



# PROPAINT

(EU project FP6, 044254)

## Improved protection of paintings during exhibition, storage and transit – PROPAINT



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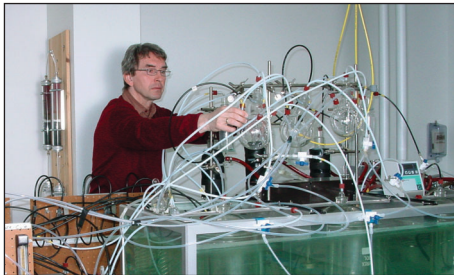
**Project partners:** 1. Norwegian institute for Air Research, NILU, Instituttveien 18, NO 2027 Kjeller, Norway. 2. Birkbeck College, Malet St. Bloomsbury, London, WC1E 7HX, UK. 3. Danish School of Conservation, Esplanaden 34, DK 1263 Copenhagen K. 4. SIT Transporters, Avda. Fuentemar, 13 28820 Coslada, Madrid Spain. 5. Fraunhofer Institut für Silicatiforschung, Frankhofer Institute ISC, Bronnbach Branch, D-97877 Wertheim-Bronnbach, Germany. 6. National Museum in Krakow, Al.3 Maja 1, 30-062 Karków, Poland. 7. Department of Chemistry and Industrial Chemistry of University of Pisa, via Risorgimento 35, 56126 Pisa, Italy.  
**Subcontractors:** Tate Gallery, UK, QuarzTec, UK, Statens Museum for Kunst, DK

### Aim of the Project

The EU project PROPAINT started in February 2007. The project aims to provide conservation staff and stakeholders with innovative protection treatments used as a preventive conservation measure for paintings during exhibition, storage and transit.

To achieve this aim, the following objectives will be investigated:

- Evaluation of the protective effect of microclimate frames for paintings.
- Evaluation of the physical-chemical state and hence the protective effect of varnishes on paintings generally and in microclimate frames specifically.
- Contribution to preventive conservation strategy standards for microclimate control of paintings on display, in storage and in transit.
- Optimisation of microclimate control and its implication for design of new microclimate enclosures.



The NILU laboratory exposures, Oslo

### Assessing the environmental conditions for paintings

Current approaches to the use of microclimate frames will be reviewed through consultation with end-users. Laboratory and field test programmes for evaluating the combined impact of pollutants and climate on paintings installed in microclimate frames will be



Apsley House, London.

performed. Early warning dosimeters developed in three previous EU funded projects (MIMIC, AMECP and MASTER) will be used to assess the degradation effect on varnishes and paintings. In addition, certain selected gaseous pollutants will be measured with the appropriate gas sampling techniques.

The results from the microclimate frames and varnish studies will be used to develop remediation guidelines for stakeholders, and contribute to standards for microclimate control for paintings. Finally, the results from these three work packages will be integrated in WP4 for the purpose of designing new and better microclimate frames. This development will be made in close cooperation with the end users and their needs.

PROPAINT will develop best advice for protection of paintings

University of Pisa will do analysis of varnish ageing.



by the use of microclimate frames and varnish surface remediation treatments in order to assist managers and technical conservators in the field of painting conservation and support policy and decision makers. It will be the first time to exploit dosimeters, easy to handle, low cost and ready for the market, developed in previous EC projects. Their appropriateness and synergies of simultaneous use, for assessing the quality of environmental conditions of paintings, will be demonstrated.



SIT-Artyd laboratory, Madrid.

### Acknowledgment

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### More information

For more information about the PROPAINT project please contact the project co-ordinator **Elin Dahlin**, NILU, phone + 47 63 89 80 00 or [elin.dahlin@nilu.no](mailto:elin.dahlin@nilu.no). Project website: [www.nilu.no/propaint](http://www.nilu.no/propaint)

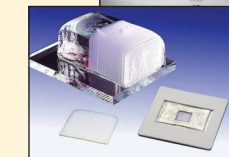
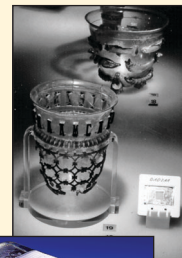
## Effect Dosimeters for Museum Environments



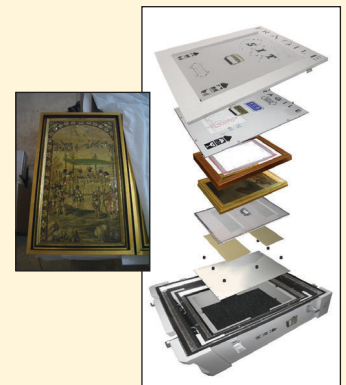
The NILU EWO-G dosimeter



The Birkbeck PQC dosimeter



The Fraunhofer Glass dosimeter



The SIT-Artyd microclimate frames



Norwegian Institute for Air Research



Birkbeck University of London



Tate Britain



RDFAA.SC Danish School of Conservation



Statens Museum for Kunst



SIT International Transporters



Fraunhofer Institut für Silicatiforschung



National Museum in Krakow



University of Pisa