



## The purchase of learning materials: Works of Art on Paper specialism

Students on the Works of Art on Paper route are required week one of the programme to supply one framed black and white print and one watercolour (unframed preferably). These will be used for practical activities and exploration of selected conservation techniques. Please choose artworks that are sufficiently deteriorated so it offers various treatment challenges.

### Value of work /risk

Students are urged to source work of low value; a maximum value of **£50** is recommended. Please note that although it would always be preferable to avoid any damage to works of art during treatment, the objects are intended to support your learning and therefore some work carried out during studio sessions may be of a more experimental nature increasing the possible risks to the object. For this reason please choose a print/watercolour that is not precious to you. Objects must however be sufficiently deteriorated and challenging so you can learn a range of skills and techniques from them.

**Disclaimer:** Any work brought into Burt Hall as part of learning is at your own risk

The University cannot be held responsible for any damage or loss to artworks treated or housed in Burt Hall.

### Recommended size

A medium sized print/watercolour is recommended - 60 X 90 cm maximum size, very large items, however interesting, may not be accepted due to pressures of storage and studio space.

### Description or type of print

Recommended: A black and white engraving, etching or lithograph on paper preferably 50 years old or more with a layer of surface dirt with a yellow/discoloured support. Avoid photomechanical prints

It should be in an old frame – with original fixings and hangings if possible

In addition, other problems such as foxing, local stains, losses and tears are acceptable but avoid pigmented or hand-coloured prints as they may be inappropriate for the scheduled workshop activities

Please note that prints not fitting the criteria above will not be accepted.

### Description or type of watercolour

An unframed, un-mounted watercolour/gouache on paper is recommended. Ideal problems might include:

- Severe to moderate local or overall discolouration (essential)
- Tears and losses
- Adhesive or sellotape residues
- Pigment related problems including fading, powdering/flaking

### Completion

Students may not be able to complete all necessary processes on the print or watercolour. Typically, the treatment of personal objects will directly follow tutor led workshop sessions on selected topics in order to reinforce skills and the understanding of a variety of methods. Objects should be available at all times during the course of the programme.

### Sources of potential prints and watercolours

The most likely sources of potential prints and watercolours are car boot sales, auctions and secondhand shops. EBay, Etsey is also a great source; however, students should be very careful to examine the work on-line to ensure that the age is genuine and not a modern replica or photo-chromographic print. Look for authentic discolouration, losses, mould/foxing and irregularities in the paint. Take note of the seller's descriptions.

### Use of Images

Please note Northumbria University will have the right to use images of the objects undergoing examination and treatments for promotional and teaching purposes unless otherwise stated

### Purchase date:

Please have your framed artwork by the **first week of Semester 1**

### Examples of student prints and watercolours



Fig.1 An example of a discoloured print in historic frame ideal in supporting many workshop activities including un-framing, documentation and cleaning



Fig.2 An example of a mid 19<sup>th</sup> century discoloured watercolour and ink drawing ideal in supporting workshop activities and developing practical skills in dealing with potentially water sensitive pigments



Fig.3 An example of a mid 19<sup>th</sup> century full colour watercolour on paper attached to backing board and gilded mount

