

A mobile laboratory for the analysis of paintings

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In the study of historical paintings it is of great relevance to describe the materials and formulas of the artists, in order to understand their painting technique but also for authentication as well as conservation purposes. The identification of the paint components and how they are distributed at or below the painting surface is thus a major challenge in the field. Considering sampling for chemical analysis on precious works of art is restricted or even prohibited, non-invasive methodologies have been developed to investigate without any damage the composition

of the painting and allow on-site analysis. Different examples of paintings analysis will be given to illustrate the wide variety of the available techniques, their advantages and limits and the need to combine them to get a full characterisation of the work of art.

Laurence de Viguerie research is dedicated to paint formulation and based on two complementary approaches: the development of non invasive techniques for the in-situ analyses of paintings, combined to paint properties study.