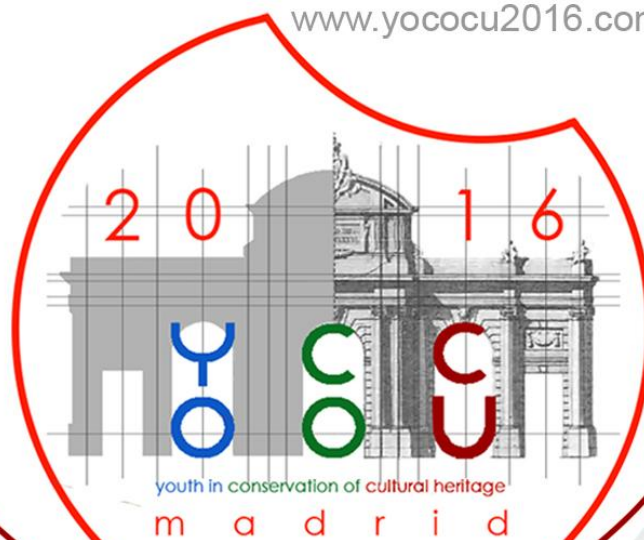


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Edited by:

Mónica Álvarez de Buergo
Beatriz Cámara Gallego
Duygu Ergenc
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USING WATERCOLOUR MARKERS IN CHROMATIC REINTEGRATION: A CASE STUDY

**Cardeira, L.^{1*}; Bailão, A.²; Baptista Pereira, F.A.¹; Candeias, A.³;
Nascimento, S.⁴; Linhares, J.⁴**

¹ Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Lisbon (FBAUL), Portugal, ² Research Center for Science and Technology of the Arts - Portuguese Catholic University, Centre Regional of Porto, CITAR, Portugal, ³ HERCULES Lab and Chemistry Department, Evora University, Portugal, ⁴ Centre of Physics, Optics and Vision Sciences at Minho University

The aim of this project is to present the preliminary results about the use of watercolour markers in chromatic reintegration. The watercolours markers were tested to ascertain whether these materials are useful for retouching practice.

The study is being conducted within the framework of the conservation and restoration intervention of a painting of the Portuguese painter Adriano de Sousa Lopes (1879-1944), who started his artistic production in the 19th century. The chosen artwork, The Lady with the hat was created by Sousa Lopes while student of Fine Arts in Lisbon (EBAL) and now belongs to the collection of paintings at the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Lisbon (FBAUL).

Mock-ups with different ground layers were done to compare the behaviour of the markers. These markers have the advantage of having a fine point on one end and a flexible brush nib on the opposite. One of the conclusions is that the fine point enables conservators to achieve more control when performing the distinctive retouching, especially pointillism. Another conclusion is that the ground layers influence the brushstroke of the markers and the saturation of the colours. With both water brush and the flexible brush of the watercolour marker is easy to apply watercolour washes if necessary, but only in non-porous ground layers. The flexible brush also allows uniform underpainting, more saturated in porous ground layer. These markers are a highly pigmented water-based that have permanent ink flow. This characteristic is good for distinctive techniques of retouching but do not allow blending or to create hues gradation when more than one layer is needed.

These conclusions were achieved, first, with examination with the unaided eye during the application of the paint over mock-ups. The deformation of the points and the influence of the fillers were examined at magnifications of 200X. The equipment used consisted of a USB digital microscope Dino-Lite Pro brand - AM4013-FVW model with 1.3 Mpixel resolution. This microscope is portable and is equipped with one switchable LED UV light.

Also, as this is an ongoing project, the paint of the watercolours markers is being tested with hyperspectral imaging techniques.

* Corresponding author: L. Cardeira lili_237@hotmail.com