

Amann+Estabrook Conservation Associates

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Condition Report

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Re: Pablo Picasso
Course de Taureaux, May, 1956
Oil on canvas
19 1/4x 25"

Auxiliary Support: The painting is mounted on a medium weight five-member stretcher. The forward and back faces have been beveled and the forward face of the inner profile is rounded. Wooden keys are extant in all of the joins and are held in place with wax resin.

Support: The support is an extremely fine, plain weave linen which is tacked to the stretcher along the side edges. The canvas is taut and in plane with the exception of a soft distortion in the lower right.

Ground and Paint Layers: The ground appears to have been commercially applied and provides a smooth, white layer, which does not fill the interstices of the weave. The paint, estimated to be oil, has been variously applied. Paint has been applied in multiple smooth layers as well as in soft peaks of impasto. There are numerous stable drying cracks throughout, which are particularly notable in the black passages. The upper skin of paint in the yellow daubs of impasto have cracked, revealing a brighter and 'cleaner' yellow beneath.

There are two areas of insecure paint as follows: 8 5/8" from the upper edge and 2 5/8" from the right edge, and at 8" from the upper edge and 9 3/8" from the left edge. Scattered small paint losses are visible in the following locations: at 3" from the upper edge, 2 1/2" from the left edge; 2 1/2 to 2 5/8" from the upper edge and 4 1/4" from the left edge; on the right edge at 3 7/8" from the upper edge; 8 1/8 to 8 1/2" from the upper edge and 4 7/8 to 5 1/8" from the upper edge; 2 5/8" from the lower edge and 5" from the right edge; 0 to 1/2" from the lower edge and 6 to 6 1/4" from the right; along the lower edge at 1 3/4" and 8 3/4" from the left edge; at 2 1/2" from the lower edge and 4 7/8" from the left edge; 4 3/8" from the lower edge and 5 1/2 to 5 3/4" from the left edge.

Several small, blanched drips are on the surface on the left edge at 3" from the upper edge and near the lower edge at 3" from the lower edge and 8" from the left edge. There is a dark rub at 1/2 to 1 1/4" from the upper edge and 13 to 13 1/4" from the left edge.

There are scattered rubs along the turning edge and in the lower left corner as well as wear in the upper left and lower right corners.

The surface is slightly soiled overall with a greater accumulation on the upturned faces of the impasto.

Under ultraviolet light, there is no apparent inpainting.

Comments on Condition

The painting is in good overall condition. The areas of lifting paint should be stabilized prior to travel. Further treatment could be undertaken if desired by the owner: The scattered small paint losses could be filled and inpainted; and the surface of the work could be cleaned of superficial dust and soil.



Elizabeth Estabrook