



Article: Treatment of Andreas Gursky's Rhine II: Testing of Dusting Materials and Cleaning Cloths

Author(s): Erin L. Murphy

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**TREATMENT OF ANDREAS GURSKY'S *RHINE II*:
TESTING OF DUSTING MATERIALS AND CLEANING CLOTHS**

ERIN L. MURPHY

Presented at the 2005 PMG Winter Meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia

Abstract

The Museum of Modern Art is currently involved in an extensive, long-range project regarding the preservation and treatment of face-mounted photographs in the Museum's collection and elsewhere. One segment of this project focuses on removal of dust and accretions from the acrylic surface of *Rhine II*, a 61¼ x 121½ inch face-mounted photograph by German photographer, Andreas Gursky. In preparation for its exhibition, conservators tested a series of dusting materials and cleaning cloths in order to determine the most appropriate method for cleaning the delicate acrylic surface of the photograph. The dusting materials included a lambswool duster, hake brush, Static Master brush, cotton swabs, dusting brush and forced air. Cleaning cloths included a Microfiber cloth, Lint Free Wyp-Alls, Pec Pads, Dust Bunnies, wet conditioned chamois, dry conditioned chamois, cotton flannel and loose cotton. The products were tested on face-mounted photograph facsimiles. Surface changes in the acrylic due to treatment were measured for percent change in specular and diffuse reflectance using a Minolta CM2500d Spectrophotometer and visually assessed with photomacrographs viewed under differential interference contrast lighting. Based on the experimentation, the conservators chose a lambswool duster as a safe method of removing dust from the surface of the photograph and a Microfiber cloth for more extensive cleaning of accretions.

Erin L. Murphy
Andrew W. Mellon Fellow
Museum of Modern Art

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