

Mag.art. Dr.phil. Stella Lattanzi:

DISSERTATION 2022 / ABSTRACT English

**OIL PAINTINGS ON CARDBOARD. TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS AND CONSERVATION
ISSUES OF AN ARTISTIC TECHNIQUE. WITH A FOCUS ON AUSTRIA 1890-1930.**

Summary:

This dissertation discusses the painting technique, the materials and the condition of oil paintings on cardboard. These are art objects standing in the area of tension between paper and paintings conservation, which have been insufficiently investigated to date. Object-based research serves as the main research method: a systematic serial examination of selected original paintings makes it possible to answer the research questions and to demonstrate the results by means of tangible examples. The focus lies on Austrian paintings from the period between 1890 and 1930. First, an art-historical section introduces to the period of time and the circumstances that led to the diffusion of boards as supports for oil paintings. Then, the motivation of the artist for using this technique is analysed and the distinguishing stylistic characteristics as well as the esthetic effect of these artworks are outlined. The examination of the technique and the materials employed in oil paintings on cardboard build the core of the dissertation. In this context also findings on the dealers and manufacturers of art supplies in the German-speaking countries are presented with special reference to cardboards available on the market. The typical damage patterns of oil paintings on cardboard as well as the underlying causes and processes are then thoroughly assessed. Eventually, the conservation treatments on oil paintings on cardboard are reflected upon. It is hoped that the dissertation will stimulate further research into the development of adequate methods and materials for the treatment of oil paintings on cardboard.