

**SCHOOL OF FINE ART AND MUSIC**  
**Fall Semester 2015**  
**ARTH\*4340-01/ AHVC 6300**  
**TOPICS IN ART AND VISUAL CULTURE IV**  
**TOPIC: The Authentic Art Work: Issues in Technical Art History,**  
**Conservation and Restoration**



**INSTRUCTOR:** Sally Hickson  
**TIME:** Wednesday 2:30 – 5:20pm  
**LOCATION:** Alexander Hall, Rm 286  
**OFFICE:** Zavitz 203/Johnston 113  
**PHONE:** Ext. 58234  
**EMAIL:** [shickson@uoguelph.ca](mailto:shickson@uoguelph.ca)  
**OFFICE HOURS:** Wednesday 1 – 2.30 at my Zavitz Office or by appointment

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**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:**

This seminar course is designed to explore one or more issues in Art and Visual Culture (Western Art) depending on the expertise of the instructor. Students should consult the department for specific offerings.

*Prerequisite(s):* A minimum of 14.00 credits including 2.50 credits in Art History

*Restriction(s):* ARTH\*4160. Registration is limited to students in the Art History or Studio Art specializations with an average of 70% in all ARTH and SART course attempts.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES (UNDERGRADUATE):**

1. Develop a broader and deeper understanding of how visual images inflect and change our understanding of historical events.
2. Understand and appreciate the major debates that have shaped the discipline of art history and visual culture and situate their own methodologies and approaches within or without these historiographical contexts.
3. Locate, interpret and analyze primary and secondary sources relevant to research questions.
4. Develop the critical skills necessary for complex visual analysis.
5. Communicate their ideas using visual, oral and written arguments and presentation skills.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

“There is a story in every art work; the story of its making and meaning, of the material choices made by the artist, and of its survival more or less unharmed, through time. Object-based research can be used to establish the story line, and aided by scientific

analysis, art historical and art technological source research, the plot may be revealed.” - from the website for Technical Art History, University of Glasgow

This course explores practical, historical and theoretical issues in art conservation and restoration from the point of view of the developing discipline of Technical Art History, and in the context of ‘authenticity’. Technical Art History reasserts the primacy of the ‘work’ of art by looking at its materials and making, its accidents, damages, repairs, restorations, losses and additions, re-makings and restorations. All of these events are situated within specific historical circumstances; shifting borders, changing tastes, new concepts of artistic production etc.; that alter theories of art and the rationales and methods for its preservation, alteration and, occasionally, its destruction. At issue is the larger task of determining the theoretical, ethical and aesthetic principles that have been used to determine the ‘authentic’ work of art, and whether that state of authenticity can be preserved or restored. What does ‘restoration’ mean? What is ‘authenticity’?

**For more on the development of Technical Art History as a discipline, see:**  
**[http://www.getty.edu/conservation/publications\\_resources/newsletters/20\\_1/feature.html](http://www.getty.edu/conservation/publications_resources/newsletters/20_1/feature.html)**

**PLEASE NOTE: Under no circumstances should a student be required to pay any additional monies for supplies needed to complete course assignments – excluding items listed under “Items Provided by the Student”. All supplies are to be paid for using Lab Fee monies. If you are being charged additional monies, please report to Robin McGinnis ([rmcginni@uoguelph.ca](mailto:rmcginni@uoguelph.ca)) in the main office (Zavitz Hall rm. 201) immediately.**

**METHOD OF EVALUATION:**

Course Reading Discussions and Participation (including class blog) .....	15%
Group Presentations on Renaissance Painting Materials and Techniques Oct 7 .....	15%
Abstract and annotated bibliography due two weeks before main presentations .....	15%
Seminar Presentation Undergrads: Nov 11; GRADS: Nov 18 .....	15%
Final Paper – due Dec. 9 .....	40%

A complete syllabus and instructions for all assignments will be handed out when the class begins in September.