



MCCRONE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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<http://www.mcri.org>

2 March 2000

From: Walter C. McCrone

Subject: Painting attributed to Claude Monet

Dear sirs,

I have finally finished our study of the 45 x 55.5 cm painting attributed to Claude Monet (1840-1926). Eleven samples were taken, mounted in Arocior®, a standard refractive index medium for characterization and identification of pigments by polarized light microscopy. A Scanning Electron Microscope with Energy Dispersive Detector (SEM/EDS) was used to obtain supplemental chemical analyses.

The pigments thus identified in this painting, with their dates of first use, were lead white (ancient), viridian (1825), chrome yellow (1818), lemon yellow (1809), ultramarine (ancient), cerulean blue (1805), burnt sienna (ancient), zinc white (ancient), and madder (ancient). All of these pigments were available to Monet; in fact, all of them were used by Monet in this painting. His palette is well known as a result of studies by Dr. Askok Ray at the National Gallery in London*.

The samples with their locations follow:

1. Ground (white) 3-3/4" from right edge along top edge.
2. Light blue 6-1/4" from right edge along top edge.
3. Brown (Signature) 3/4" from top, 1/4" from right edge.
4. Green 10-1/2" from top, 2" from right edge.
5. Red-brown 7-3/4" from bottom, 1/4" from right edge.
6. Gray-green along bottom edge, 5-1/2" from left edge.
7. Gray along bottom edge, 5" from left edge.
8. Blue along left edge, 9" from bottom edge.
9. Red 11-1/2" from bottom edge, 5-1/2" from left edge.
10. Yellow 12" from bottom edge, 7" from left edge.
- 11, White 5" from bottom edge, 3" from left edge.

*National gallery Technical Bulletin, Vol. 9 (1985) pp. 12-20



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Sample Pigments

- 1 Lead white
2. Viridian, zinc white
3. Burnt sienna
4. Viridian
5. Lead white, zinc white, madder, cerulean blue
6. Lead white, viridian
7. Zinc white, viridian, ultramarine (trace)
8. Lead white, cerulean blue, ultramarine
9. Burnt sienna, cerulean blue, ultramarine, viridian
10. Chrome yellow, barium chromate (lemon yellow)
 Zinc white

Everything we have seen and done agree remarkably well with the known palette of Claude Monet. I see no reason to doubt the attribution to one of my favorite artists, Claude Monet.

Yours sincerely,

Walter C. McCrone

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