

Preserving Paintings



Caring for Paintings

- Excessively high light levels can cause the fading and/or darkening of paintings
- If spotlighting a painting, the light should be at least 10 feet away
- Fluctuations in temperature and humidity can cause damage to paintings due to the expansion and contraction of the wood and fabric components

Caring for Paintings

- When moving a painting, never put pressure on the canvas – front or back
- Always be sure to examine the frame for damage before moving the painting
- Moving is best done when the temperature and humidity are more moderate – spring and fall
- Dirt serves as a host for mold growth and the absorption of pollutants and moisture

Cleaning for Paintings

- Outside of surface dusting, cleaning should be done by a professional conservator
- Soft brushes can be used to remove surface dust from paintings and frames
- The back of the painting should be kept clean by brushing or vacuuming with low suction and a brush attachment