

Unknown artist (possibly French?), Portrait of a Monk, after about 1525, oil on panel, $23 \mathrm{~cm} \times 17.3 \mathrm{~cm}$, front, visible light, Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields, The Clowes Collection, 2014.92.

3 TECHNICAL EXAMINATION REPORT

## Portrait of a Cleric

after about 1525
Unknown artist
possibly French
oil on oak panel
$9-1 / 16 \times 6-13 / 16$ in.
$(23 \times 17.3 \mathrm{~cm})$
The Clowes Collection
2014.92

## Overview

Identification number: 2014.92
Artist: Unknown artist (possibly French?)
Title: Portrait of a Monk
Materials: Oil on oak panel
Date of creation: After about 1525
Previous number/accession number: C 10040

## Dimensions:

$23 \mathrm{~cm} \times 17.3 \mathrm{~cm}$ (panel)
$23.8 \mathrm{~cm} \times 18.1 \mathrm{~cm}$ (including edge strips)
Conservator/examiner: Fiona Beckett with contributions from Roxane Sperber
Examination completed: June 2014, 2021
DISTINGUISHING MARKS
Front:
None
Back:
None

## SUMMARY OF TREATMENT HISTORY


 Extensive retouching on the surface suggests the painting has undergone numerous varnish removals and reintegration campaigns of lost and abraded paint.
 Fraser to Pierre Rosenberg notes "I have had a color sample made of the background color, and will bring it with me to Paris, so that we can check it against the background of your portrait." 2


 radiograph of the painting was made at this time. 4

 panel. ${ }^{5}$
 completed in July 1994 by Peter Klein. ${ }^{-}$The dendrochronological analysis was revised by lan Tyers in January $2019 . \frac{8}{}$

The painting was previously examined and documented in the Clowes Collection annual survey from 2011 to 2020

## CURRENT CONDITION SUMMARY

 structural interventions intact

## METHODS OF EXAMINATION, IMAGING, AND ANALYSIS

| Examination/Imaging | Analysis (no sample required) | Analysis (sample required) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| (1) Unaided eye | (1) Dendrochronology | $\square$ Microchemical analysis |
| ( Optical microscopy | (v) Wood identification | $\square$ Fiber ID |
| (1) Incident light | $\square$ Microchemical analysis | $\square$ Cross-section sampling |
| (Raking light | $\square$ Thread count analysis | $\square$ Dispersed pigment sample |
| $\square$ Reflected/specular light | (X-ray fluorescence spectroscopy (XRF) | $\square$ Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR) |
| $\square$ Transmitted light |  | $\square$ Raman microspectroscopy |
| (Ultraviolet-induced visible fluorescence (UV) |  |  |
| (1) Infrared reflectography (IRR) |  | $\square$ Gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS) |
| $\square$ Infrared transmittography (IRT) |  | Scanning electron microscope-energy dispersive X -ray spectroscopy (SEM-EDS) |
| $\square$ Infrared luminescence |  | $\square$ Other: |
| (1) X-radiography |  |  |

## TECHNICAL EXAMINATION

## DESCRIPTION OF SUPPORT

AnalyzedObserved


Technical Figure I: X-radiograph with reduced cradle. Unknown artist (possibly French?), Portrait of a Monk, after about 1525, Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields, The Clowes Collection, 2014.92.

Material (fabric, wood, metal, dendrochronology results, fiber ID information, etc.):





 vulnerable to decay and therefore may have prompted this area to require replacement. ${ }^{-}$-

Characteristics of Construction / Fabrication (cusping, beveled edges of panels, seams, joins, battens):

 without reduced cradle. Unknown artist (possibly French?), Portrait of a Monk, after about 1525, Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields, The Clowes Collection, 2014.92.

 the back of the panel suggesting it was radially cut.



 the bottom edge (tech. fig. 3), suggesting this area of the panel was trimmed and the bottom section added. This was not noted by Tyers in his original report but was later confirmed. 12


Technical Figure 3: The bottom addition showing a broad brushstroke being abruptly cut off along the bottom edge. Unknown artist (possibly French?), Portrait of a Monk, after about 1525, Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields, The Clowes Collection, 2014.92.

## Thickness (for panels or boards): <br> 2-3 mm <br> Production/Dealer's Marks: <br> None

Auxiliary SupportOriginal
Not originalNot able to discernNone

The auxiliary support is a cradle with four vertical, movable members (all of which have seized) and five horizonal, fixed members. Edge strips are also present along all four edges.
Attachment to Auxiliary Support:
 the X -radiograph (tech. fig. 2).

## CONDITION OF SUPPORT

 to the cut of wood and the addition of the cradle.

## DESCRIPTION OF GROUND

AnalyzedObservedMaterials/Binding Medium:
Likely a chalk and glue ground.
Color:
The initial ground is an off-white color. It appears to have yellowed slightly over time.


Technical Figure 4: Photomicrograph showing the white ground ending before the left edge of the panel. Unknown artist (possibly French?), Portrait of a Monk, after about 1525, Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields, The Clowes Collection, 2014.92.
 directions (see Description of Paint). The texture of this layer is visible on the panel when imaged with raking light.

## Thickness:


 larger panel or altarpiece.

Sizing:
A size layer would have been applied to the panel prior to the application of a ground layer
Character and Appearance (Does texture of support remain detectable / prominent?):
The wood grain appears prominently through the paint layers and composition.

## CONDITION OF GROUND

 the upper paint layers.

## DESCRIPTION OF COMPOSITION PLANNING

## Methods of Analysis:

Surface observation (unaided or with magnification)
Infrared reflectography (IRR)
X-radiography
Analysis Parameters:
X-radiography equipmen
GE Inspection Technologies Type: ERESCO 200MFR 3.1, Tube S/N: MIR 201E 58-2812, EN $12543: 1.0 \mathrm{~mm}$, Filter: 0.8 mm Be +2 mm AI

| $\mathrm{KV}:$ | 26 |
| :--- | :--- |
| $\mathrm{~mA}:$ | 3 |
| Exposure time $(\mathrm{s})$ | 90 |
| Distance from x-ray tube: | $36^{\prime \prime}$ |

IRR equipment and wavelength Opus Instruments Osiris Al infrared camera with $\operatorname{InGaAs}$ array detector operating at a wavelength of $0.9-1.7 \mu \mathrm{~m}$.


Technical Figure 5: Infrared reflectogram. Unknown artist (possibly French?), Portrait of a Monk, after about 1525,
Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields, The Clowes Collection, 2014.92.

## Medium/Technique:

 identified, but it appears to be a fluid medium.

Pentimenti:

 and lower edges.


Technical Figure 6: Detail of the ear and neck showing suggestions of underdrawing in infrared reflectography. Unknown artist (possibly French?), Portrait of a Monk, after about 1525, Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields, The Clowes Collection, 2014.92.

## DESCRIPTION OF PAINT

AnalyzedObservedApplication and Technique:


 articulated using a range of black and brown tones to create form.

## Painting Tools:

Brushes of varying sizes were used. There is no evidence of palette knife or other hard-edged tools.

## Binding Media:

Oil (untested)

## Color Palette:


 may be related to retouching applied using a still brush to "spritz" the surface.


Technical Figure 7: Photomicrograph of background showing bright yellow pigment particles. Unknown artist (possibly French?), Portrait of a Monk, after about 1525, Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields, The Clowes Collection, 2014.92.




 using zinc white or zinc yellow.


Technical Figure 8: XRF sample locations. Unknown artist (possibly French?), Portrait of a Monk, after about 1525, Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields, The Clowes Collection, 2014.92.

| Sample | Location ( $\mathrm{x}, \mathrm{y}$ ) | Elements | Possible Pigments |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | Skin tone in face (cheek) | Major: Pb <br> Minor: Fe <br> Trace: $\mathrm{Hg}, \mathrm{Ca}, \mathrm{Zn}, \mathrm{Mn}$ | Lead white, iron oxide (earth pigments), vermilion, calcium (likely from ground layer), small trace of zinc (from retouching and/or zinc-rich ocher). |
| 2 | Brown in eye | Major: $\mathrm{Pb}, \mathrm{Ca}$ Minor: Zn , Fe Trace: | Lead white, calcium (likely from ground layer), iron oxide (earth pigments), zinc (from retouching and/or zinc-rich ocher). |
| 3 | White in eye | Major: Pb <br> Minor: Ca <br> Trace: $\mathrm{Fe}, \mathrm{Zn}$ | Lead white, calcium (likely from ground layer), trace of iron oxide (earth pigments), small trace of zinc (from retouching and/or zinc-rich ocher). |
| 4 | Red in lips | Major: Pb <br> Minor: $\mathrm{Fe}, \mathrm{Hg}, \mathrm{Ca}$ <br> Trace: $\mathrm{Cu}, \mathrm{Zn}, \mathrm{Mn}$ | Lead white, vermilion, calcium (likely from ground layer), trace of iron oxide (earth pigments), small trace of zinc (from retouching and/or zinc-rich ocher), small trace of copper-containing blue and/or green pigment. |
| 5 | Brown-black in coat | Major: $\mathrm{Pb}, \mathrm{Ca}$ <br> Minor: Zn <br> Trace: $\mathrm{Fe}, \mathrm{Mn}, \mathrm{Cu}, \mathrm{K}$ | Lead white, calcium (likely from ground layer), zinc (possibly from retouching and/or zinc-rich ocher pigment), trace of iron oxide (earth pigments), small trace of copper-containing blue and/or green pigment. |
| 6 | Edge addition along right edge | Major: $\mathrm{Ca}, \mathrm{Zn}$ <br> Minor: $\mathrm{Pb}, \mathrm{Co}, \mathrm{Fe}$, <br> Trace: $\mathrm{Cr}, \mathrm{Mn}, \mathrm{Ti}, \mathrm{K}, \mathrm{P}$ | Calcium (likely from ground layer) and/or bone black, zinc white, lead white, cobalt yellow, iron oxide (earth pigments including umber), traces of chromium green, red and/or yellow, and trace of titanium white (or titanium from an impurity). |
| 7 | Blue-green background, right | Major: $\mathrm{Zn}, \mathrm{Fe}, \mathrm{Co}$ <br> Minor: $\mathrm{Mn}, \mathrm{Ca}, \mathrm{Pb}$ <br> Trace: K, Ti | Zinc white and/or yellow, cobalt yellow, iron oxide (earth pigment) and/or Prussian blue, lead white, calcium (likely from ground layer), trace of titanium white (or titanium from an impurity). |
| 8 | Blue-green background, left | Major: Ca <br> Minor: $\mathrm{Zn}, \mathrm{Pb}, \mathrm{Co}, \mathrm{Fe}$ <br> Trace: Mn , Ti | Zinc white and/or yellow, cobalt yellow, iron oxide (earth pigment) and/or Prussian blue, lead white, calcium (likely from ground layer), trace of titanium white (or titanium from an impurity). |
| 9 | Garment, bottom left | Major: Pb <br> Minor: $\mathrm{Ca}, \mathrm{Zn}, \mathrm{Fe}$ <br> Trace: Cu, Mn | Lead white, calcium (likely from ground layer), zinc (from retouching and/or zinc-rich ocher), trace of iron oxide (earth pigments), small trace of copper-containing blue and/or green pigment. |
| 10 | Bluegreen background, top | Major: Zn <br> Minor: $\mathrm{Co}, \mathrm{Fe}, \mathrm{Pb}, \mathrm{Ca}$ <br> Trace: Mn, Ti | Zinc white and/or yellow, cobalt yellow, iron oxide (earth pigment) and/or Prussian blue, lead white, calcium (likely from ground layer), trace of titanium white (or titanium from an impurity). |

Table 1: Results of X-ray fluorescence analysis conducted with a Bruker Artax microfocus XRF with rhodium tube, silicon-drift detector, and polycapillary focusing lens (~100 mm spot).
*Major, minor, trace quantities are based on XRF signal strength not quantitative analysis

## Surface Appearance:

The paint appears to be relatively thin, with no areas of impasto.

## CONDITION OF PAINT

 the frame. Imbedded varnish and dirt cause the texture of the wood grain to appear more prominent than it once would have been. Some abrasion from previous cleaning is evident in the face and in the
 underlying lead white layer.

## description of varnish/Surface coating

AnalyzedObservedDocumented

| Type of Varnish | Application |
| :---: | :---: |
| (Natural resin | ( Spray applied |
| (1) Synthetic resin/other | ( Brush applied |
| $\square$ Multiple Layers observed | $\square$ Undetermined |



> Technical Figure 9: Ultraviolet-induced visible fluorescence image showing fluorescence of a natural resin varnish. Unknown artist (possibly French?), Portrait of a Monk, after about 1525, Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields, The Clowes Collection, 2014.92.

 time. ${ }^{13}$
 is visible using microscopy. This suggests that much of the retouching is underneath the fluorescing layer of varnish. Much of the retouching is delicately applied, but there are a few areas of more extensive reconstruction, covering larger areas of loss and abrasion.

## CONDITION OF VARNISH/SURFACE COATING

 The retouching remains stable and well matched to the surrounding paint layer.

## DESCRIPTION OF FRAME

Original/first framePeriod frameAuthenticity cannot be determined at this time/ further art historical research necessaryReproduction frame (fabricated in the style of)Replica frame (copy of an existing period frame)Modern Frame

Technical Figure 10: Frame, front. Unknown artist (possibly French?), Portrait of a Monk, after about 1525, Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields, The Clowes Collection, 2014.92.


Technical Figure II: Frame, back. Unknown artist (possibly French?), Portrait of a Monk, after about 1525, Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields, The Clowes Collection, 2014.92.

## Frame Dimensions:

Outside frame dimensions: $31.1 \times 24.7 \times 3.9 \mathrm{~cm}$
Sight size: $22.2 \mathrm{~cm} \times 16.7 \mathrm{~cm}$

## Distinguishing Marks:

None

## Description of Molding/Profile:


 constructed and designed by frame specialist Timothy Newbery in the 1990s to house the painting more accurately. 14

## CONDITION OF FRAME

 simulate age and better suit the painting.

## Notes

1. Letter from A. Ian Fraser to Madeleine Hours, I April 1970. Conservation Department Files, Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields.
2. Letter from A. Ian Fraser to Pierre Rosenberg, 7 May 1970. Conservation Department Files, Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields.
3. Paul A.J. Spheeris, "Conservation Report on the Condition of the Clowes Collection," 25 October 1971, Conservation Department Files, Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields.
4. Martin Radecki, Clowes Collection condition assessment, undated (after October 1971), Conservation Department Files, Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields.
5. Intermuseum Conservation Association, "Clowes Collection Conservation Report," Cl0040 (2014.92), 8-10 April 1974, Conservation Department Files, Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields.
6. David Miller. Treatment report Cl0040 (2014.92), 14 Jan 1982. Conservation Department Files, Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields.
7. Peter Klein, dendrochronological analysis report, Cl0040 (2014.92), 1999, Conservation Department Files, Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields. Klein offered an earlier date of creation based on his analysis.

 Newfields.
8. Elvacite 2040 (synthetic resin) was used to fill the cradle while shooting the $X$-radiograph so that the appearance of the cradle would be minimized in the $X$-radiograph and allow the composition to be better interpreted.
 Department files, Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields.
9. Personal communication with lan Tyers, email exchange, 20 May 2020.
10. David Miller, Treatment report C10040 (2014.92), 14 January 1982, Conservation Department Files, Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields.
11. Timothy Newbery. Frame Specialist, London England. Visual analysis completed at the Indianapolis Museum of Art, January 192012.

## Additional Images



Unknown artist (possibly French?), Portrait of a Monk, after about 1525, oil on panel, $23 \mathrm{~cm} \times 17.3 \mathrm{~cm}$, front, visible light, Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields, The Clowes Collection, 2014.92.


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Unknown artist (possibly French?), Portrait of a Monk, after about 1525 , oil on panel, $23 \mathrm{~cm} \times 17.3 \mathrm{~cm}$, back, visible light, Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields, The Clowes Collection, 2014.92.


Unknown artist (possibly French?), Portrait of a Monk, after about 1525, oil on panel, $23 \mathrm{~cm} \times 17.3 \mathrm{~cm}$, front, ultraviolet induced visible fluorescence, Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields, The Clowes Collection, 2014.92.


Unknown artist (possibly French?), Portrait of a Monk, after about 1525, oil on panel, $23 \mathrm{~cm} \times 17.3 \mathrm{~cm}$, front, infrared reflectography, Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields, The Clowes Collection, 2014.92.


Frame for Portrait of a Monk, $31.1 \times 24.7$, front, visible light, Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields, The Clowes Collection, 2014.92.


Unknown artist (possibly French?), Portrait of a Monk, after about 1525 , oil on panel, $23 \mathrm{~cm} \times 17.3 \mathrm{~cm}, \mathrm{X}$-radiography, Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields, The Clowes Collection, 2014.92.


Frame for Portrait of a Monk, $31.1 \times 24.7$, back, visible light, Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields, The Clowes Collection, 2014.92.

