ARTh 807/3.0
Materials and Techniques in Early Netherlandish Painting, with a focus on Hieronymus Bosch

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Early Netherlandish paintings, as material objects, are complex layered structures that were produced with a broad range of materials in distinct stages. Methods of technical examination, such as X-radiography and infrared reflectography, provide complementary information about these objects and their production. This course surveys how Netherlandish paintings were produced, and why this information can be of critical importance for art historians. Topics will include: the division of labour within a workshop, how to ‘read’ X-radiographs and infrared reflectograms, and how to interpret the results of dendrochronological analyses. The goal of the course is to provide the necessary toolset to critically read publications in the fast-emerging field of Technical Art History, with a special focus on the techniques applied by Hieronymus Bosch and his workshop. Although the examples used in this course will be limited to Netherlandish painting, many of these skills and concepts are applicable to other fields within the history of art.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
A detailed list of readings and requirements will be available during the first class. The course will be part lecture, part presentation, and part discussion. Attendance is mandatory. Evaluation will consist of two in-class presentations and written assignments, all on assigned topics.