**DEPARTMENT OF ART  
ART HISTORY &   
ART CONSERVATION**

ARTH 402/807

**Materials and Techniques in Early Netherlandish Painting**, with a special focus on Jheronimus Bosch

Instructor: Prof. Ron Spronk

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OFFICE HOURS: TBA

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, often provide significant information about these objects and their production. This intensive 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 analysis. The goal of the course is to provide graduate students 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 Jheronimus Bosch and his workshop. Although the painting 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.

Jheronimus Bosch remains an exceptionally popular painter and draughtsman. His death in 1516 was commemorated in 2016 with major exhibitions in ‘s-Hertogenbosch and in Madrid, which together drew well over one million visitors. The scholarly interest in the master from ‘s-Hertogenbosch typically focuses on the often-peculiar iconography of some of his works, which historians of art have tried to decipher since the late 19th century. This seminar will focus on the master’s materials and techniques. The student will thus participate in the discourse on historical painting techniques, modern methods of conservation and restoration, and art historical and scientific methods of research.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

A detailed course outline will be available during the first class. The course will involve readings, lectures, student presentations, and writing assignments. Attendance to all meetings is mandatory.