



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE!

Just like us, artworks show signs of aging as they get older. They may get cracks, change in colour, warp and more. This is called deterioration and it's a natural process. However, we can slow down these changes by caring for them properly. This is the job of an art conservator!

Jacques-Barthélémy Delamarre's *Portrait of a Dog* shows signs of deterioration. Try out being an art conservator and help spot the 6 differences! When you're finished, draw a line between the signs of deterioration on the artwork and the definitions below.

Ask us how we might care for this painting.

IMAGE: Jacques-Barthélémy Delamarre's *Portrait of a Dog*, unknown date, oil on canvas. Agnes Etherington Art Centre. Gift of Arthur Keppel-Jones, 1993. Line drawings by Vincent Perez

List of signs:

WOODWORM DAMAGE: round holes in wooden frames can be a sign of woodworms at work! Woodworms are the larvae of several species of beetles that burrow into wooden items. They naturally prefer damp or dying wood in forests, making them a potential sign that your artwork is stored in incorrect temperatures and high humidity conditions.

OPEN FRAME CORNERS: wood contracts and expands due to temperature and humidity changes! When we see a large gap in a frame, this shows us that the wood has shrunk or has warped and shifted. This can be permanent, but sometimes it can be fixed if it's caught early.

DAMAGED FRAME GILDING: gilded frames are wooden frames decorated with gold leaf or paint. The damage of these frames can be caused by incorrect or rough handling, or from temperature changes where the

work was displayed. In the case of this artwork, it looks like someone may have tried to fix the frame by re-touching it at some point in its lifespan.

PAINT LOSS: temperature, physical damage and paint aging can all lead to paint cracking, chipping and flaking away over time. This artwork has a large area of paint loss revealing the canvas underneath. Perhaps it was bumped!

YELLOWING VARNISH: varnish is applied to a painting in thin layers to create a transparent shine and protect the painting surface. Varnishes are solutions of resin in various organic solvents. Over time, the varnish can yellow or darken, and become brittle and shrink, causing cracks.

AGNES

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