



Questioned Documents Section – 2006

J12 Examination of a “Velasco” Signature on an Oil Painting

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Attendees will learn the importance of research on the works of the artist in question and the use of an “Art Worksheet.” This presentation will impact the forensic community by demonstrating original research that offers a step-by-step process on the examination of an art signature, particularly an oil painting signature.

In September of 2003, an investor bought an oil painting at auction in Denmark. The painting was signed “José Maria Velasco.” The investor attempted to sell the painting in the United States, but found that he needed confirmation that this was an authentic Velasco painting. The provenance of the painting was questionable because it came to Denmark from Cuba without appropriate documentation. If the signature was determined to be authentic, the painting would have an approximate value of one million dollars. Initial research on the life and works of the artist and a literature review resulted in the preparation of an “Art Worksheet.” Known signature specimens were obtained from reputable sources. A comparison of the known signatures with the questioned signature concluded the questioned signature was very probably not executed by José Maria Velasco.

Forensic Science, Questioned Documents, Oil Painting Signature