

CONSERVATION: OUR FACILITIES

The Conservation Department is situated at the far end of the Main Gallery building. This section houses special storage, documentation and the permanent collections on the lower level, framing on ground floor level and the restoration studio which occupies the 1st floor area.

1. Framing

All framing for the permanent collection is done in the Framing Department and if necessary, molded frames are repaired and re-gilded. Our Framing Department stocks a range of conservation framing materials.

2. Documentation and Collection Storage

Our documentation area is situated at the entrance of our main collections storage area. Here artworks are held, inspected, documented and labelled before entering the permanent storage area.

The storeroom is divided into spaces adapted for the storage of oil paintings, works on paper, sculptures, ceramics and our ethnographic collection.

The framed artworks are stacked vertically on a racking system and the ethnographic collection is stored in custom built draws. All these areas are well insulated with temperatures remaining at a reasonable 18 C. The humidity is controlled by four strategically placed dehumidifying units. Generally, relative humidity (RH) fluctuations are gradual and hover around the 55% reading.

3. Restoration

Although our main focus is on preventative conservation, the Restoration Department is equipped for the restoration of easel painting. This includes cleaning, lining, filling, texturing, retouching and varnishing.

Conservation staff are involved in all practical aspects of the gallery. Atmospheric control, lighting, storage, exhibitions, staff training, security, packing and crating of artworks. They are also available for queries and advice concerning conservation.