title: Conservation treatment report of dictionary definition

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case: Joseph Kosuth, *Glass (one and three),* 1965

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Condition treatment report

Description

This document describes the conservation treatment of the dictionary definition of the object 'glass' from Joseph Kosuth's work *Glass (one and three)*. The object is printed on a gelatine silver developing-out fibre-based paper and is mounted overall with an unknown adhesive film to a sheet of aluminium. The image is printed in black and white without the use of grey tones. The photograph emulsion is bare, it is not finished with a coating or laminate.

Condition

The work has a prior conservation treatment history. The conservation treatment documentation is missing or was never written. At the time of treatment (2006) the lower right corner exhibited a break in the emulsion and paper substrate, which in the past had been restored with unknown materials. The aluminium sheet was more matte in the damaged corner than in other areas of the verso supporting the fact that the lower right hand corner had previously been treated. The cause of the damage is not known.

A yellowing of the D-min (highlight) areas of the image is visible. Fingerprints, soil and grime locally cover the entire surface area and are concentrated along all four edges of the image recto and verso. Abrasion and at least 5 deep scratches are locally visible throughout the photograph emulsion. Smaller scratches are visible along the edges and the emulsion has been lost in at least three areas on the upper, lower and left edge of the image. In these three areas the baryta layer is visible.

Dust and soil has been trapped between the photograph and the aluminium support. In these areas the image is not adhered to the aluminium support and a bubbling of the paper support is visible in these areas. The photograph is locally lifted along all edges causing a visual deformation of the planar paper in these areas when viewing in raking light.

Conservation Issue(s)

The Kröller-Müller Museum contracted the Fotorestauratie Atelier in Amsterdam to stabilize the image and to perform necessary treatment to improve the stability and visual (aesthetic) appearance of the object. In particular the previously restored lower right corner which showed dark smudges and adhesive residue from prior treatment and the soil and grime which locally cover the image were disturbing and should if possible be treated.

Testing

Testing was performed to establish more information about the adhesive that was used to consolidate the lower right corner during previous treatment. The adhesive is soluble in water and in various concentrations of ethanol and deionised water. Spot testing performed the D-min (highlight) areas, showed that the overall yellow staining and grime and dirt could be reduced using a cotton swab wetted with a mixture of ethanol and deionised water.

Treatment Proposal

1. Photographs before, during and after treatment shall be made using a Nikon D70 SLR digital camera and two lenses (Nikor 50-70 mm lens and a macro).

2. Reduce grime, soil and fingerprints on the recto and verso of the object mechanically using a micro fibre cloth or cotton wetted with a mixture of ethanol and deionised water or another appropriate solvent.

3. Reduce yellowing in the D-min (highlight) areas of the image using cotton pads wetted with a mixture of ethanol and deionised water.

4. Consolidate scratches in the emulsion using warm photographic gelatine applied under magnification using a small paint brush. The gelatine will consolidate portions of the scratches, lessen the depth of the scratch, and aid in the protection of the exposed baryta layer. Matte areas where the emulsion is lost, will regain image gloss and visually blend in with non-damaged image areas.

5. Consolidate deformed areas where the photograph is lifted from the aluminium substrate using mechanical force and photographic gelatine as needed.

6. Clean the surface of the right lower corner and the break in the emulsion and paper using an eraser and the appropriate solvent as needed.

7. Re-adhere consolidate lifting areas of the break at the lower right hand corner using photographic gelatine as needed.

Treatment Report

1. Photograph documentation before, during and after treatment was made using a Nikon D70 SLR digital camera and two lenses (Nikor 50-70 mm lens and a macro).

2. Grime, soil and fingerprints on the recto and verso of the object were mechanically reduced using a micro fibre cloth and cotton swabs and pads wetted with a 60% mixture of 99.5% pure ethanol in deionised water.

3. Yellowing in the D-min (highlight) areas of the image was reduced using cotton pads wetted with a 60% mixture of 99.5% pure ethanol in deionised water.

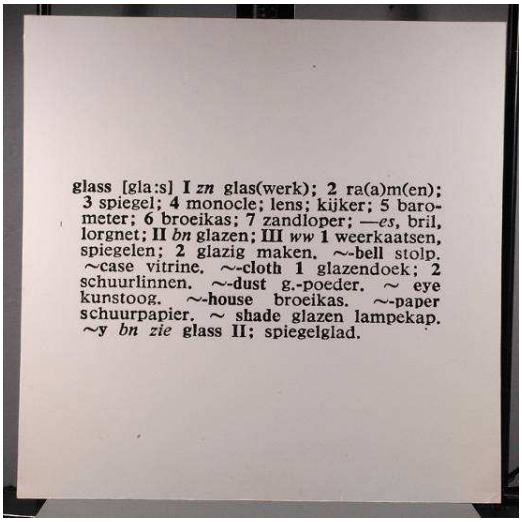
4. Scratches in the emulsion were consolidated using a 1.5% solution of warm photographic gelatine in deionised water applied under magnification using a Winsor and Newton 000 Series 7 brush. Application was repeated as necessary.

5. Deformation along the edges of the photograph were flattened mechanically using a metal spatula and consolidated with a 1.5% solution of warm photographic gelatine in deionised water applied under magnification using a Winsor and Newton 000 Series 7 brush. Application was repeated as necessary.

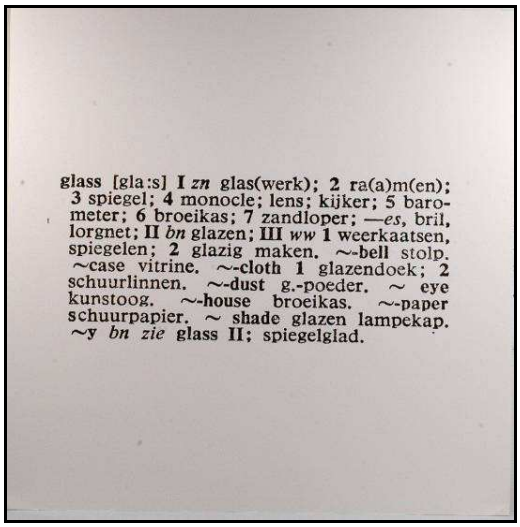
6. Grime and dirt on the surface of the lower right hand corner was mechanically cleaned using a Magic Rub eraser block and later using a cotton swab wetted with a 60% mixture of 99.5% pure ethanol in deionised water. Excess adhesive was reduced / removed using a cotton swab wetted with a 60% mixture of 99.5% pure ethanol in deionised water.

7. Lifting areas of the break at the lower right hand corner were consolidated using a 2% solution of photographic gelatine in deionised water.

Photograph Documentation



Before treatment: recto, normal light



After treatment: recto, normal light

Before treatment: detail right lower corner,
recto, normal light

After Treatment: detail right lower corner,
recto, normal light

Before treatment: detail lower edge recto. Normal light. Fingerprints visible.

After treatment: detail lower edge recto. Normal light.

Before treatment: Detail lower edge. Recto. Scratch in emulsion is visible.

After treatment: Detail lower edge. Recto.

List of materials used and suppliers

Emergo BV (Part of Fischer Scientific International)
Postbus 4
1120 AA Landsmeer
Zuideinde 70
The Netherlands
Tel +31 20 4877000
Fax +31 20 4877044
Product: Deionised water, Ethyl acetate and acetone

Albert Heijn
Zuiderhaven 3
8861 CB Harlingen
The Netherlands
Product: Cotton and cotton pads (D-makup), micro fibre cloth

Photograph Conservation Lab
Harry Ransom Center
University of Texas
Austin, Texas
USA
Product: Russelot Photographic Gelatine

Jerry's Artarama
5325 Departure Drive Raleigh,
Raleigh, NC 27616
Tel: +1-919-878-6782
http://www.jerrysartarama.com/ #
Product: Winsor and Newton Series 7 brushes 000 and 00

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