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Coloured Paper Grounds as Base for Metalpoint
Drawings. A Materials-Technological Examination of
Twelve Drawings from the Period c.1460 – c.1502
from the Holdings of the Hamburger Kunsthalle

The Hamburger Kunsthalle holds various metalpoint drawings on paper with coloured grounds, which have been attributed to different Italian Renaissance artists including Andrea Mantegna, Filippino Lippi, Leonardo da Vinci and Raphael. Twelve drawings were examined in detail using microscopy, X-ray fluorescence analysis, VIS spectroscopy and multispectral photometry. The examination aimed to analyse the composition of the paper grounds, to investigate the way in which the ground was applied to the paper and to gain a better understanding of how the grounding to be applied determined the choice of paper. The results have not yet been fully evaluated at the time of writing this abstract. In the further course of the research project, it is planned to compare the results of the optical and analytical examinations with recipes and instructions described in historical sources. The comparison of the recipes and instructions, with the results of the optical and analytical examinations, aim to find out, if and how paper supports are described, to what extent the analysed ingredients correspond to the recipes from the historical sources and how they differ. On this basis, conclusions will be drawn on the artists' working methods and materials.

Keywords: Artist papers, paper grounds, drawing, Italian Renaissance, materials-technology