

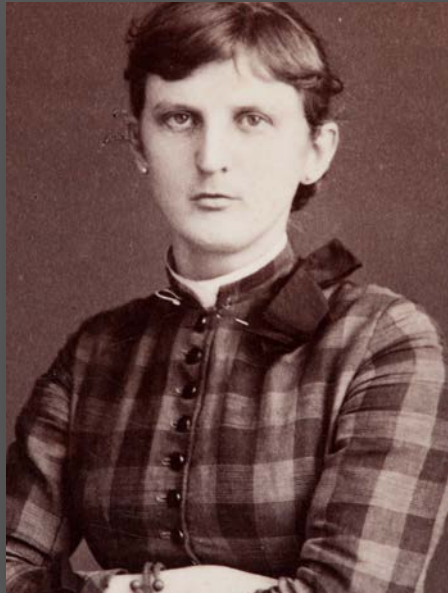
Methods of Looking and A Vocabulary for Identification



Image Permanence Institute
2017-2018

Photographic Identification Webinar #4

Process Identification



1



2



3



4

These are 4 different processes!

Key ID Features

Each process has a unique “fingerprint,” called its key identifying features.

These features are a result of the materials and technologies used to make the object.



Key ID Features

- Image color/tone
- Surface characteristics: sheen and texture
- Image structure
- Layer structure



Methods of Looking

- Object View
- Surface View
- Magnification View



Object View



Characteristics visible with even illumination and no magnification.

Object View

Image Clues

- Clothing
- Vehicles
- Hairstyles
- Buildings



Object View

Format

- Cased (1840s-1860s)
- Carte de visite (1860s-1870s)
- Cabinet card (1870s-1900)
- Stereograph (1860s-1930s)
- Folder (1900-1930s)
- Postcard (1900s-1930s)
- Mounted
- Unmounted



Albumen print, CDV

Object View



1



2



3



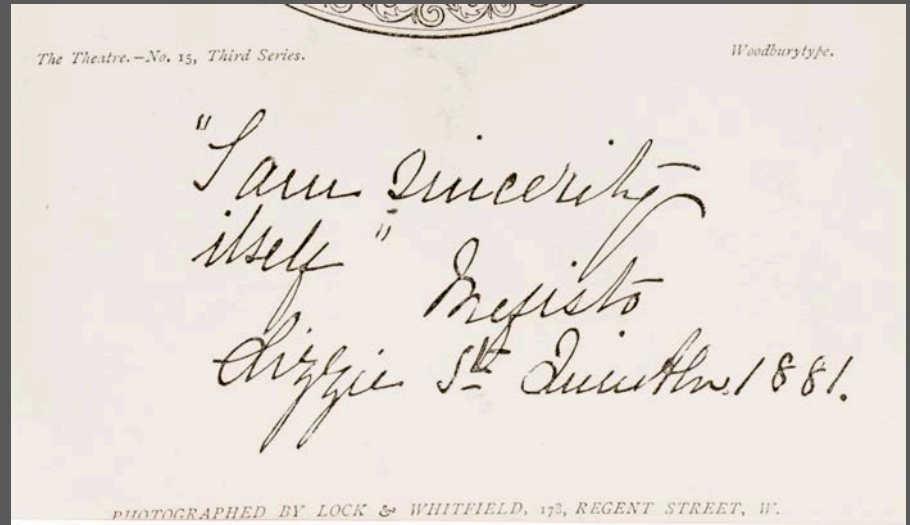
4

Object View

Information written or printed on the object

- Back print
- Back stamp
- Dates
- Inscriptions

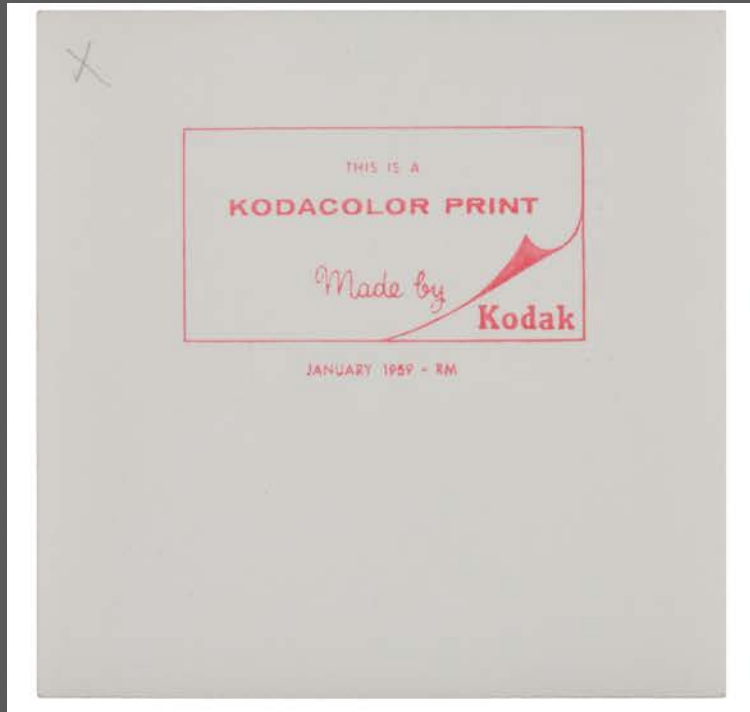
4



3



Object View: Info



Object View



Primary Support

- Paper
- Plastic
- Glass
- Metal
- Ceramic
- Fabric
- Leather



Object View: Support

Paper support

- Most common support
 - Pre-photographic prints
 - Photographic prints
 - Photomechanical prints
 - Digital prints



Object View: Support

Glass

- Ambrotype
- Wet plate collodion negative/transparency
- Gelatin Dry Plate negative/transparency

Metal

- Daguerreotype
- Tintype

Fabric

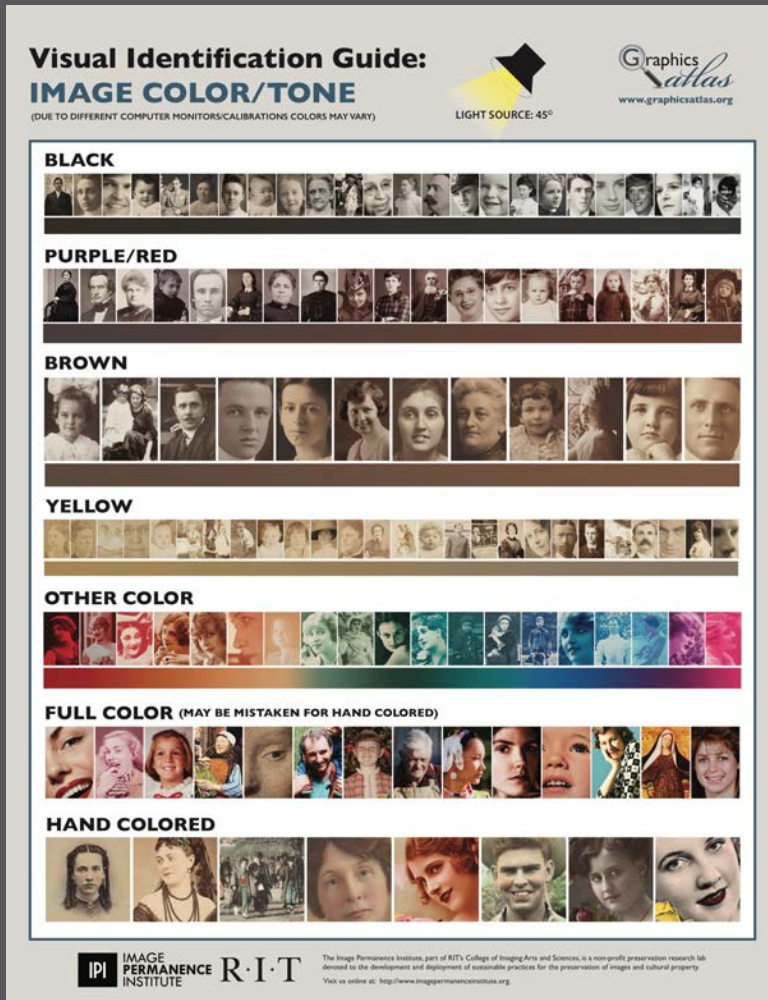
- Salted “paper”
- Cyanotype



Object View

Image Color/Tone

- Black
- Purple/Red
- Brown
- Yellow
- Other Color
- Full Color
- Hand Colored



Object View: Image Color

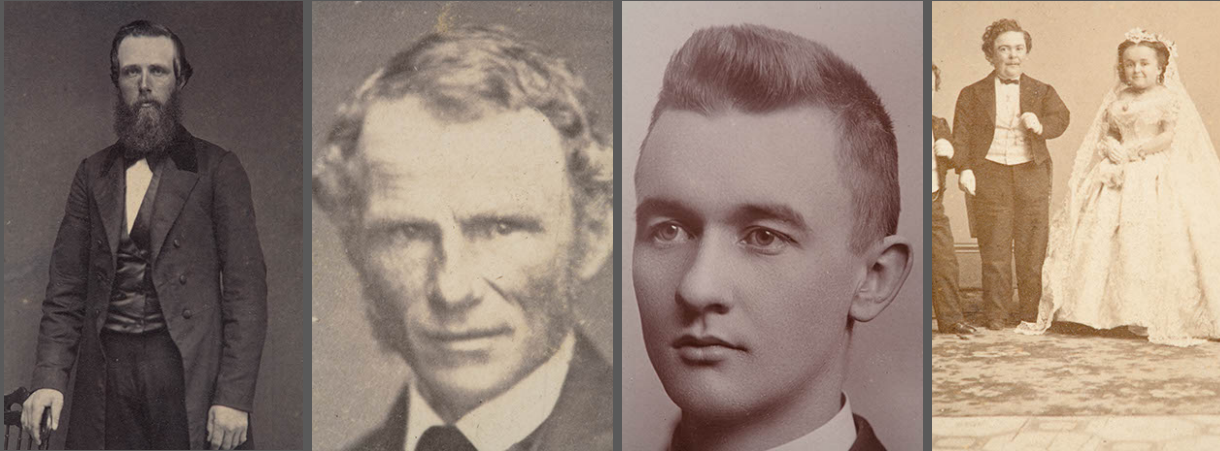
Image formation + Image material = Image color

- Metal
- Pigment
- Dye



Object View: Image Color

The color of silver



Printed Out

Object View: Image Color

The color of silver



Printed Out



Object View: Image Color

The color of silver

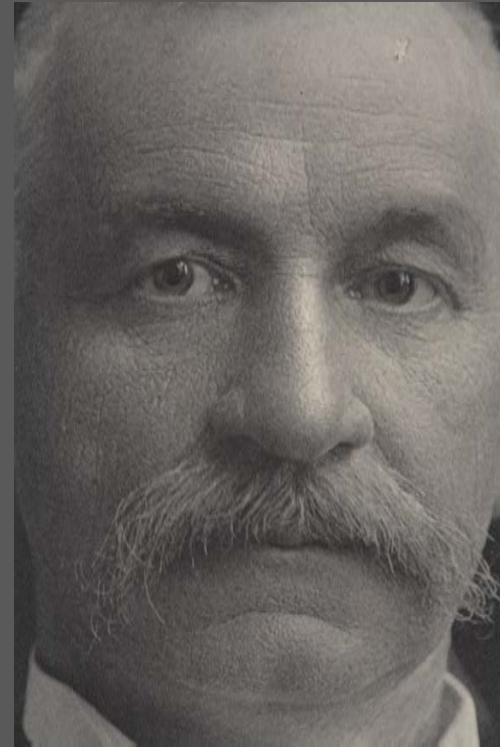


Printed Out

Developed Out

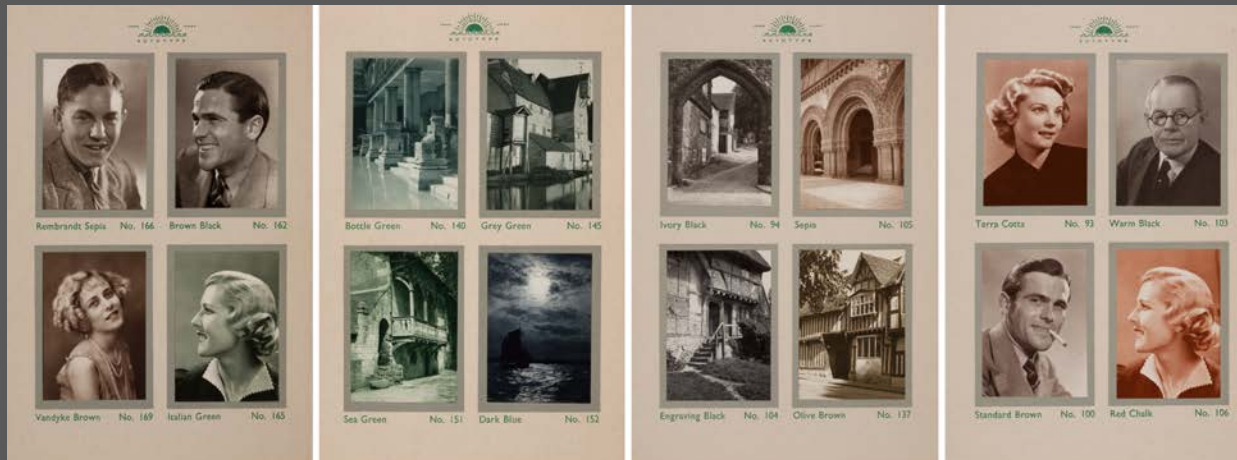
Object View: Image Color

The colors of platinum



Object View: Image Color

The colors of pigment



Pigment Processes: Carbon, Carbro, Woodburytype, Direct Carbon (Fresson), Gum Dichromate, Bromoil, Bromoil Transfer


Object View: Image Color

The colors of dye



Object View: Image Color


Visual Identification Guide:
IMAGE COLOR/TONE
(DUE TO DIFFERENT COMPUTER MONITORS/CALIBRATIONS COLORS MAY VARY)

 **Graphics atlas**
www.graphicsatlas.org


BLACK




PURPLE/RED



BROWN




YELLOW




OTHER COLOR



FULL COLOR (MAY BE MISTAKEN FOR HAND COLORED)



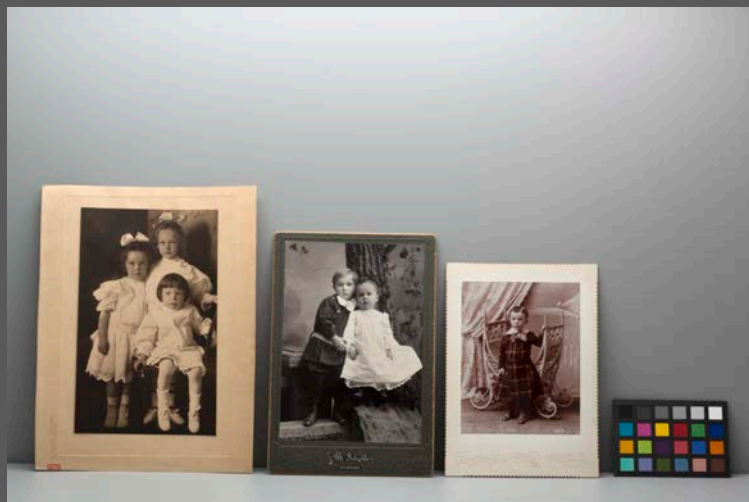
HAND COLORED



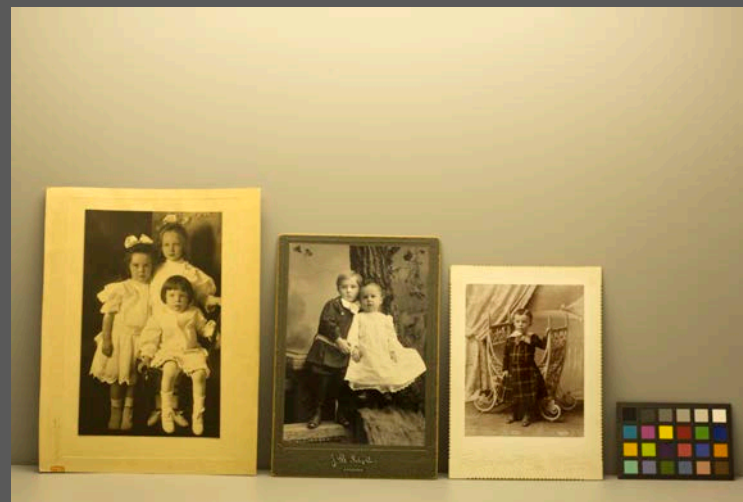
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Object View: Image Color



Daylight



Fluorescent

Tungsten



Object View: Image Color

Visual Identification Guide: IMAGE COLOR/TONE

(DUE TO DIFFERENT COMPUTER MONITORS/CALIBRATIONS COLORS MAY VARY)



Graphics
atlas
www.graphicsatlas.org

BLACK



PURPLE/RED



BROWN



YELLOW



OTHER COLOR



FULL COLOR (MAY BE MISTAKEN FOR HAND COLORED)



HAND COLORED



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Object View: Image Color

Visual Identification Guide: IMAGE COLOR/TONE

(DUE TO DIFFERENT COMPUTER MONITORS/CALIBRATIONS COLORS MAY VARY)



Technics
atlas
graphicsatlas.org

BLACK



PURPLE/RED



BROWN



YELLOW



OTHER COLOR



FULL COLOR (MAY BE MISTAKEN FOR HAND COLORED)



HAND COLORED



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Object View



Deterioration

- Color shifting
- Highlight yellowing
- Image ghosting
- Image fading

Visual Identification Guide: IMAGE DETERIORATION



COLOR SHIFTING



HIGHLIGHT YELLOWING



IMAGE GHOSTING



IMAGE FADING

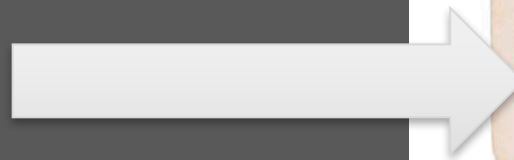


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Object View: Deterioration

1

- Image Fading
- Highlight Yellowing



Object View



Key Identifying Features

- Primary Support
- Image Color
- Image Deterioration

Other Clues

- Image Clues
- Format
- Back print/Back stamp
- Other information printed/written on the object

Surface View

Characteristics visible with directional illumination and no magnification.

Single light source from above



Surface View



Surface View

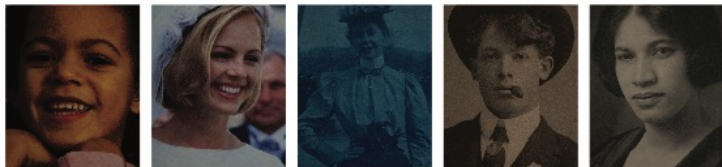


Visual Identification Guide: SURFACE SHEEN

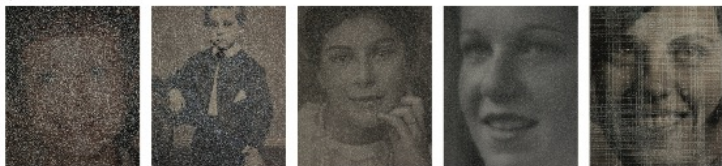


Graphics
Atlas
www.graphicsatlas.org

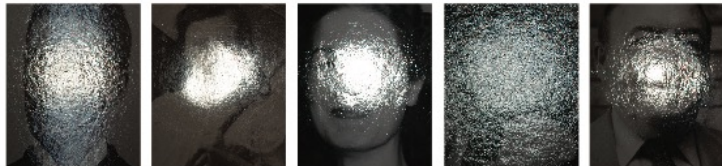
MATTE



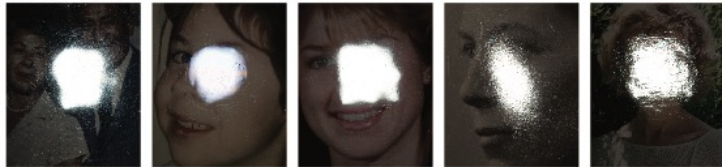
SEMI-MATTE



GLOSSY



HIGH GLOSS



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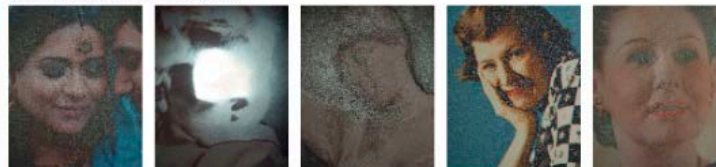
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Visual Identification Guide: SURFACE SHEEN

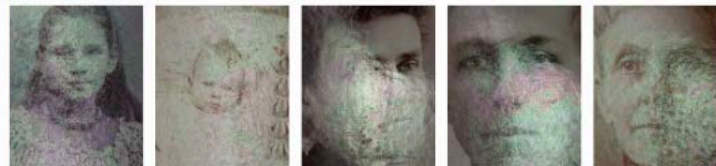


Graphics
Atlas
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DIFFERENTIAL GLOSS



IRIDESCENCE



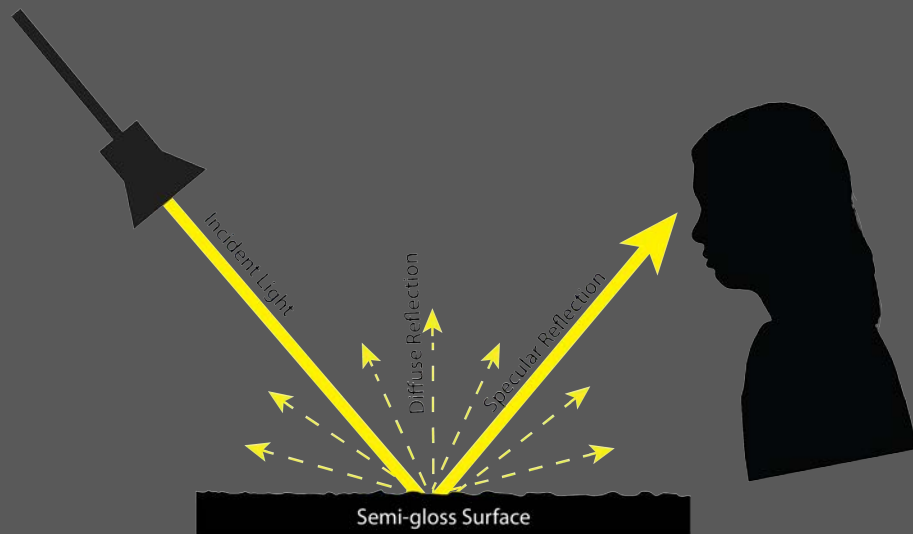
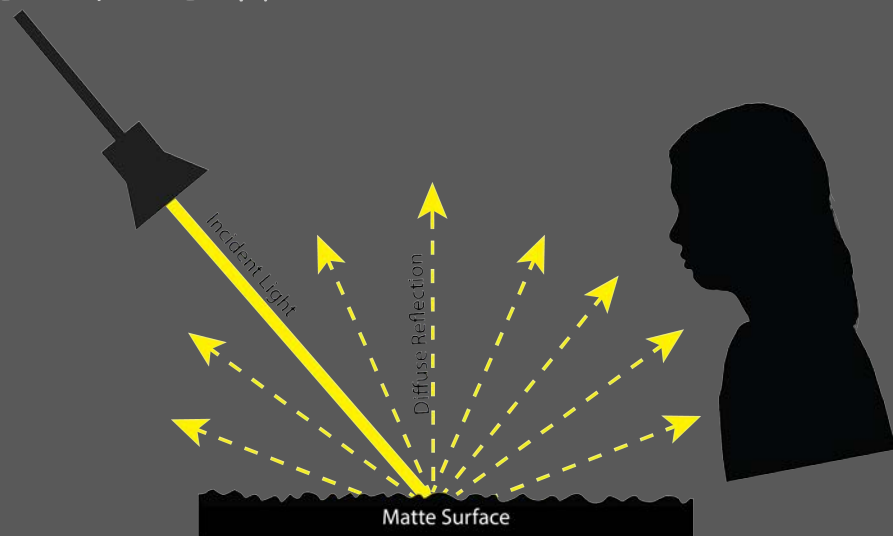
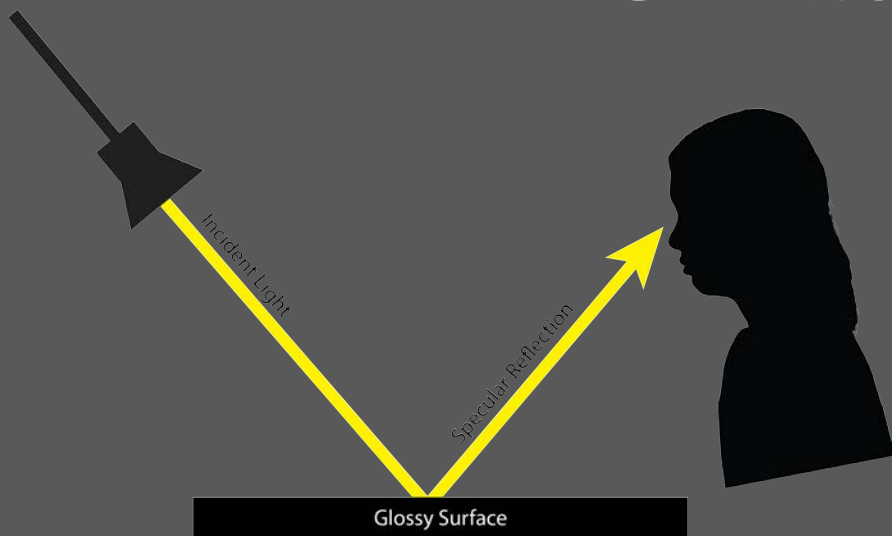
SILVER MIRRORING/BRONZING



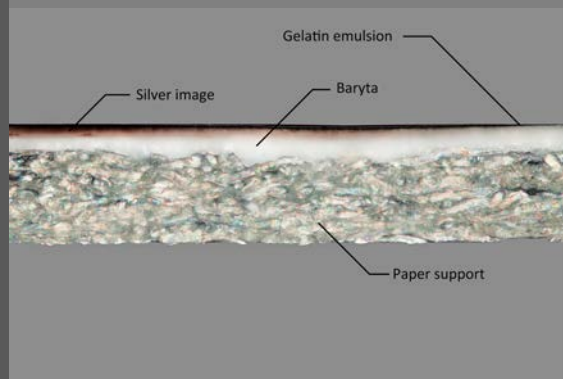
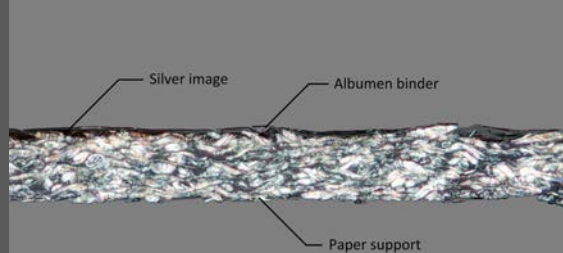
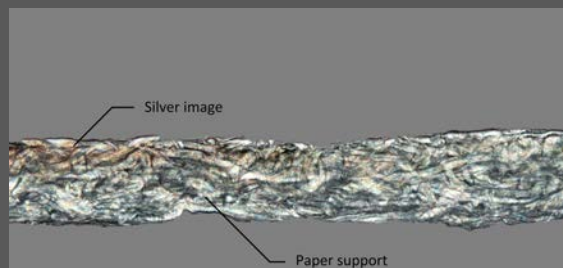
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Surface View

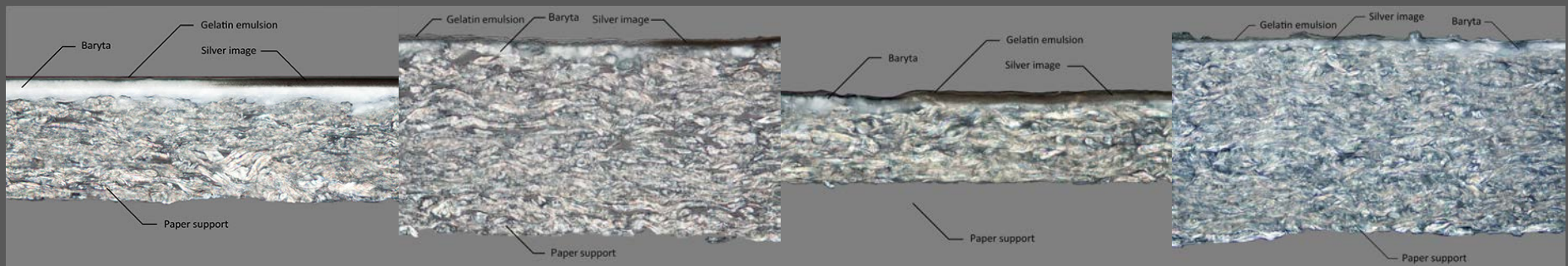


19th Century



The surface characteristics (texture and sheen) are related to the layer structure of the print.

20th Century



Surface View



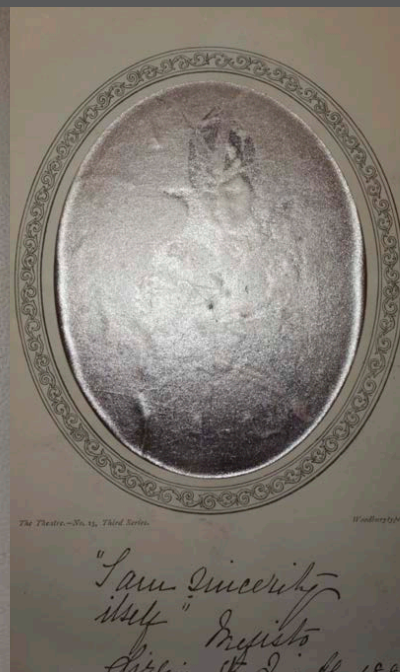
1



2



3



4

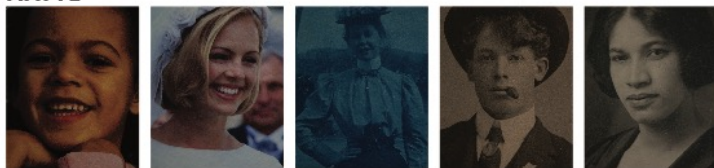
Surface View

Visual Identification Guide: SURFACE SHEEN



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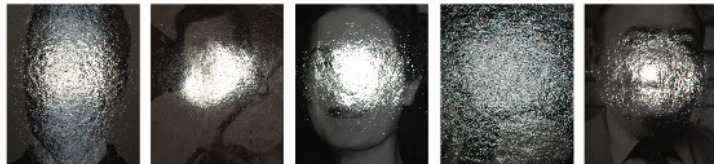
MATTE



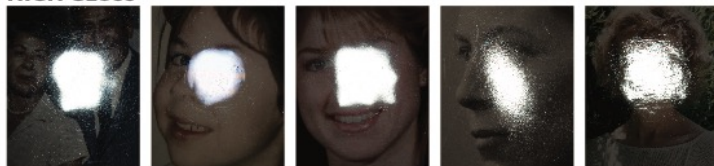
SEMI-MATTE



GLOSSY

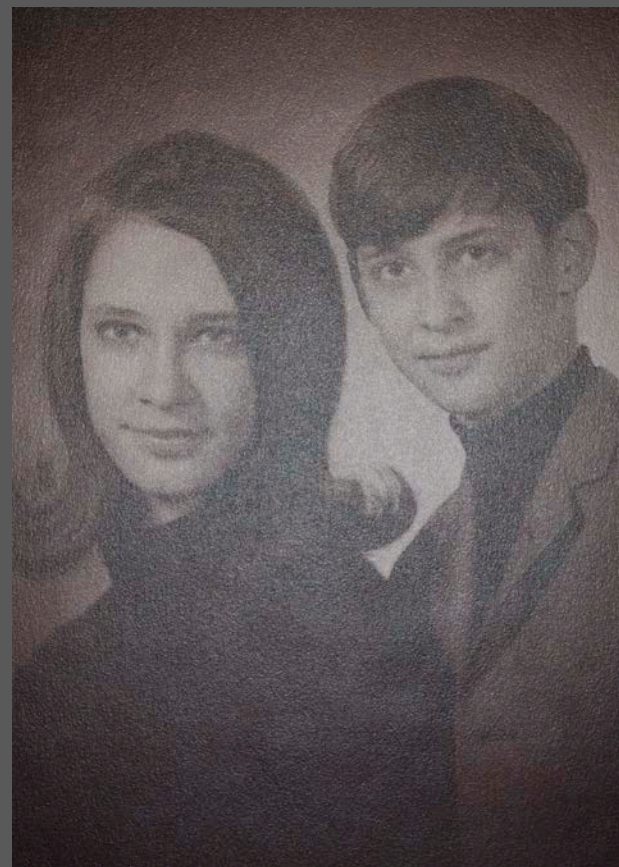


HIGH GLOSS



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Semi-Matte



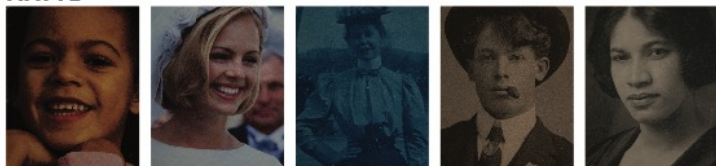
Surface View

Visual Identification Guide: SURFACE SHEEN



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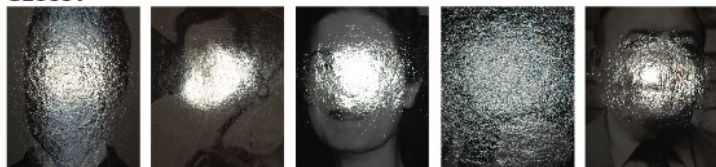
MATTE



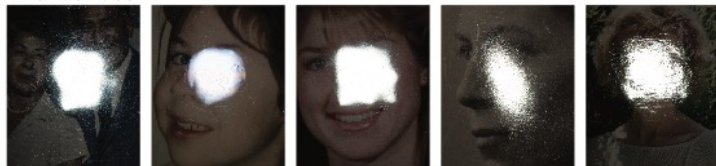
SEMI-MATTE



GLOSSY



HIGH GLOSS



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1

Glossy

3



Surface View

Visual Identification Guide: SURFACE SHEEN



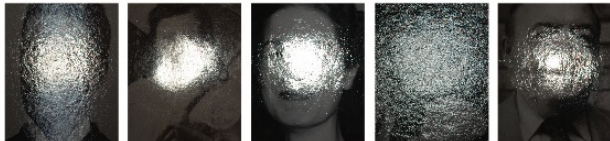
MATTE



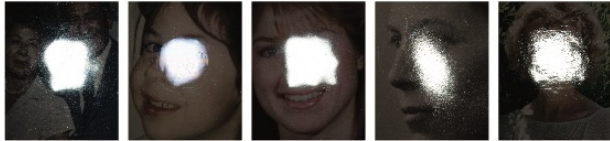
SEMI-MATTE



GLOSSY



HIGH GLOSS



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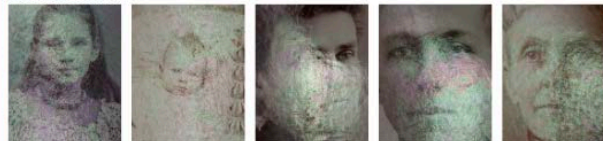
Visual Identification Guide: SURFACE SHEEN



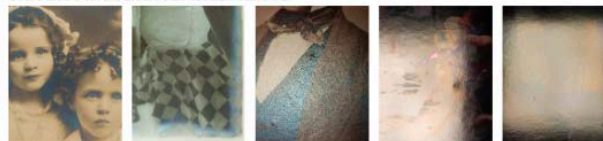
DIFFERENTIAL GLOSS



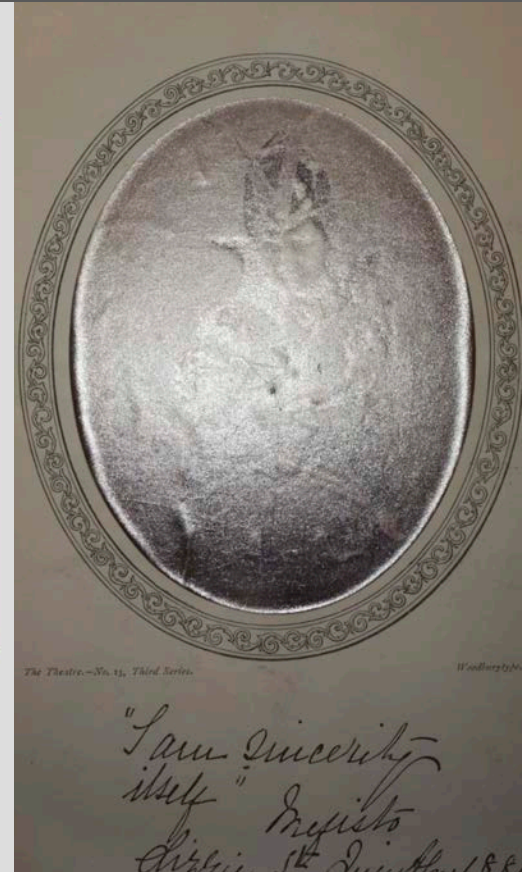
IRIDESCENCE



SILVER MIRRORING/BRONZING



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4

Glossy
Differential Gloss

Surface View

Key Identifying Feature

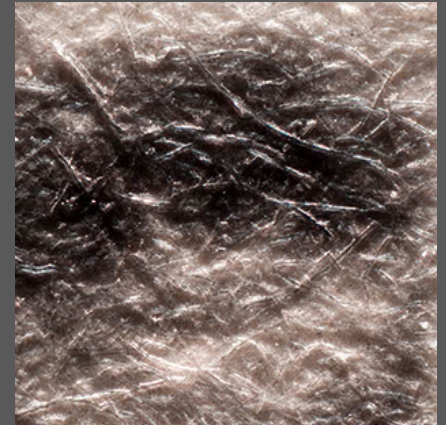
- Surface Sheen



Magnification View

Characteristics visible with even or directional illumination and the use of magnification.

- Image Structure
- Layer Structure



Magnification View

Magnification Tools

- 10x loupe
- Pocket microscope
- Microscope



Magnification View

Magnification Tools

- 10x loupe
- Pocket microscope
- Microscope



10x loupe



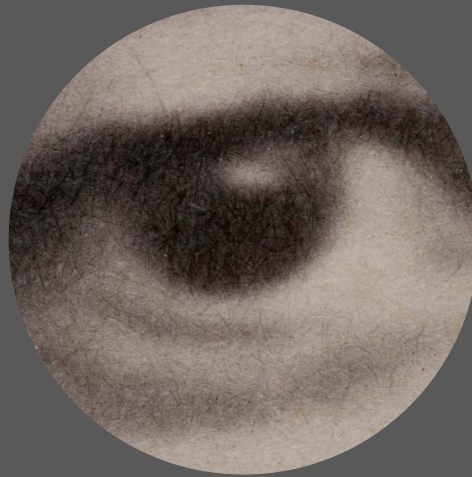
Magnification View

Magnification Tools

- 10x loupe
- Pocket microscope
- Microscope



10x loupe



30x pocket microscope



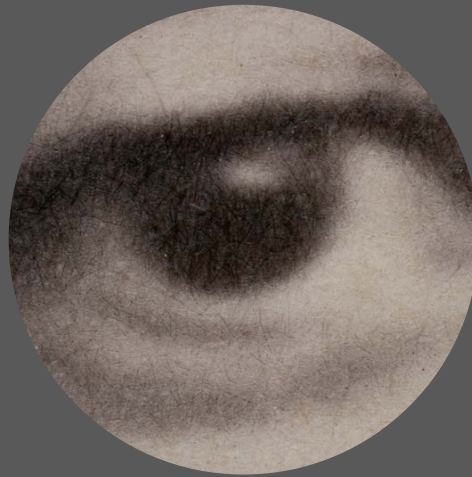
Magnification View

Magnification Tools

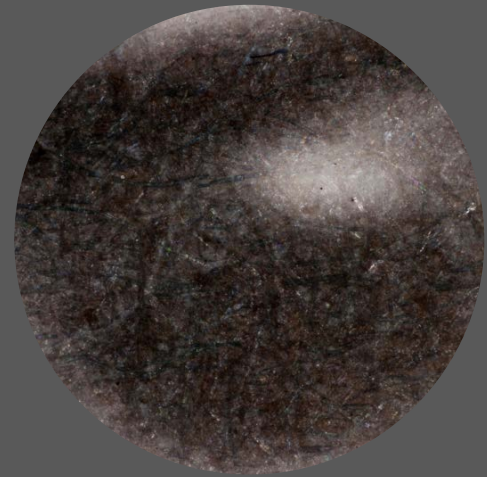
- 10x loupe
- Pocket microscope
- Microscope



10x loupe



30x pocket microscope



50x microscope

Magnification View



Loupe with flashlight



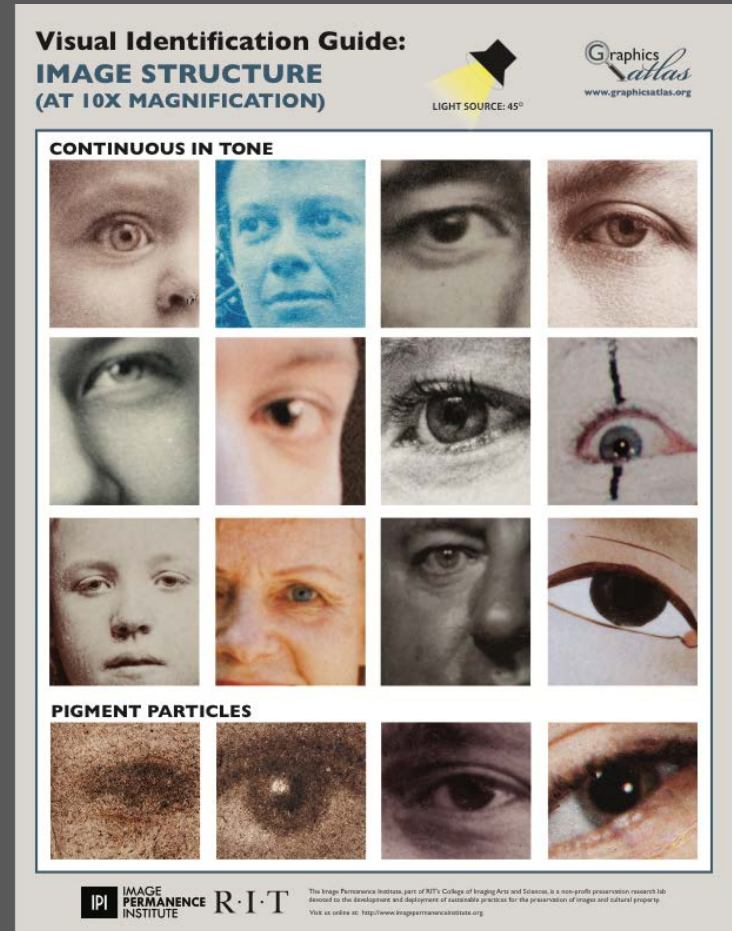
Pocket Microscope

Magnification View

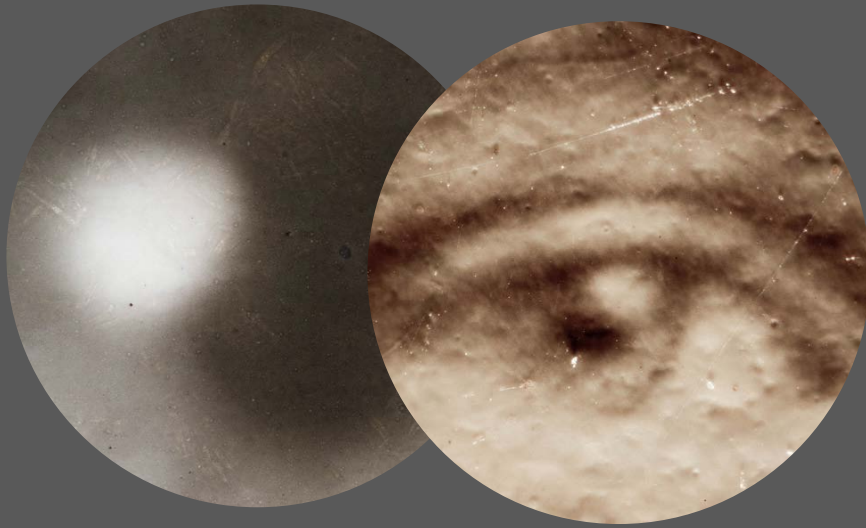


Image Structure

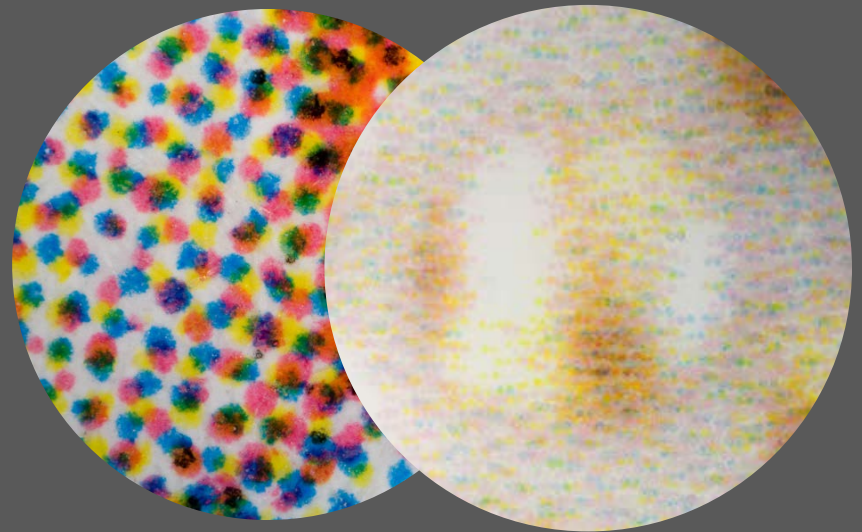
- Continuous in tone
- Pigment particles (Continuous in tone)
- Patterned
- Image grain (high mag)



Magnification View: Image Structure



Photographic
Continuous in tone



Photomechanical or Digital
Patterned

50x magnification

Magnification View: Image Structure

Visual Identification Guide: IMAGE STRUCTURE (AT 10X MAGNIFICATION)



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CONTINUOUS IN TONE



PIGMENT PARTICLES



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Visual Identification Guide: IMAGE STRUCTURE (AT 10X MAGNIFICATION)



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PATTERNED





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Magnification View: Image Structure

Visual Identification Guide:
IMAGE STRUCTURE
(AT 30X MAGNIFICATION)

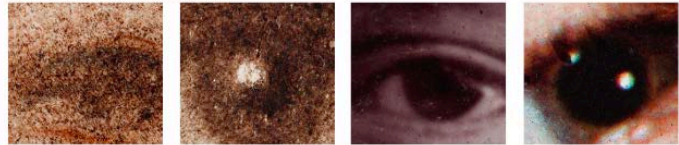
 LIGHT SOURCE: 45°


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CONTINUOUS IN TONE




PIGMENT PARTICLES




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Visual Identification Guide:
IMAGE STRUCTURE
(AT 30X MAGNIFICATION)

 LIGHT SOURCE: 45°

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Magnification View: Image Structure

Visual Identification Guide:
IMAGE STRUCTURE
(AT 50X MAGNIFICATION)

 LIGHT SOURCE: 45°

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CONTINUOUS IN TONE

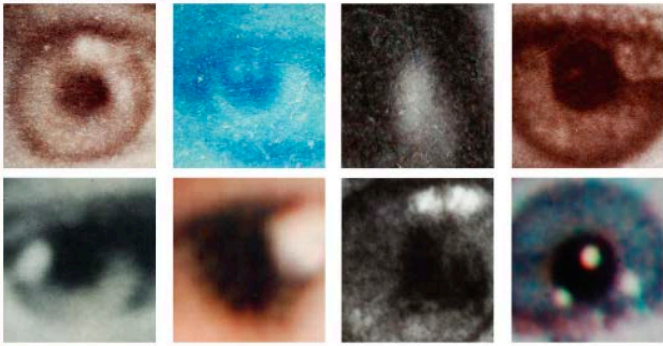
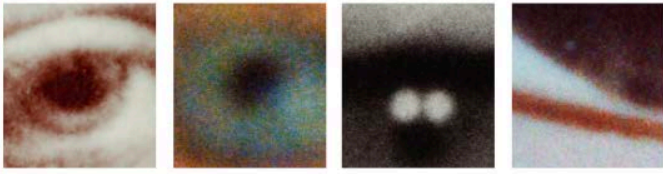
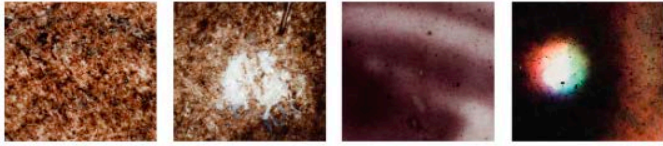



IMAGE GRAIN




PIGMENT PARTICLES




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Visual Identification Guide:
IMAGE STRUCTURE
(AT 50X MAGNIFICATION)

 LIGHT SOURCE: 45°

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PATTERNED



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Magnification View: Image Structure

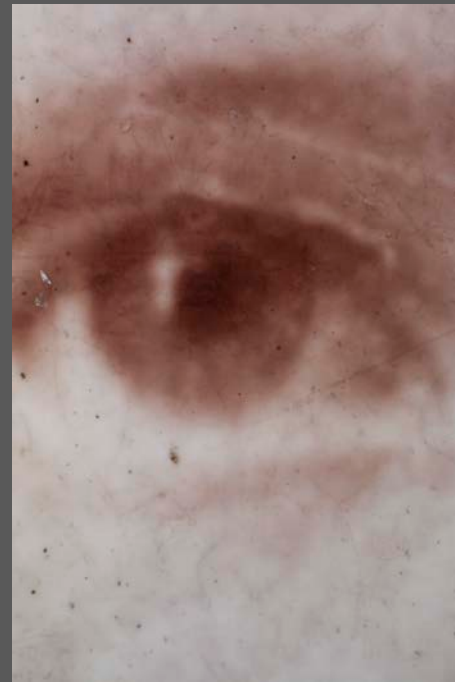
Continuous in tone



1



2



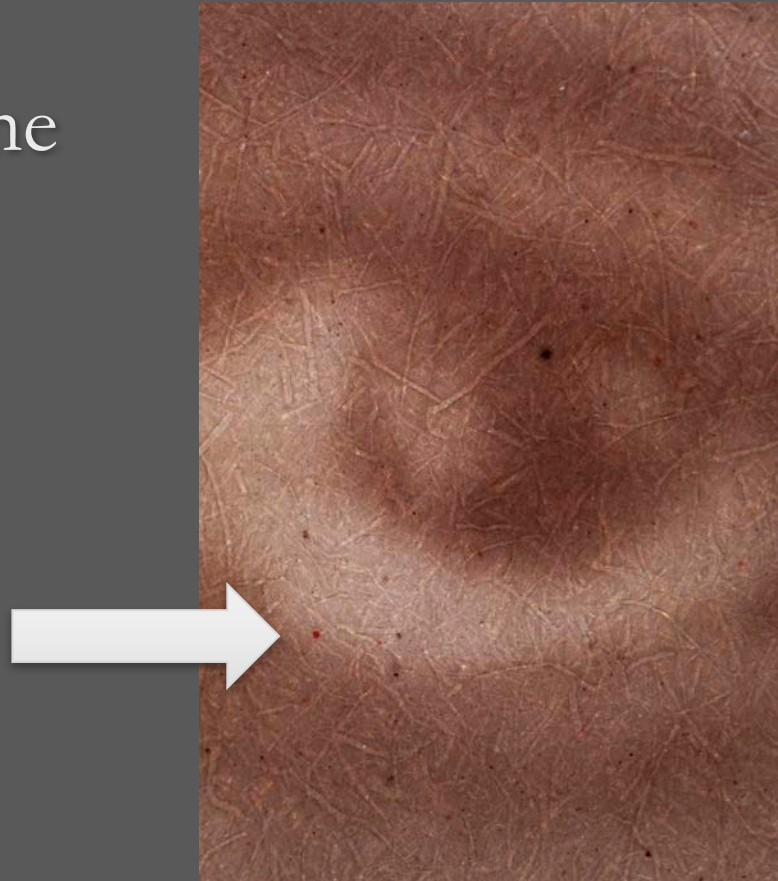
3



4

Magnification View: Image Structure

Continuous in tone
Pigment particles



Magnification View

Raking Light:
directional light
from the side



Magnification View

Raking Light:
directional light
from the side



Magnification View

Layer Structure

- Image in/on paper fibers (paper fibers visible)
- Image above paper fibers, in binder/on coating (paper fibers visible)
- Image in binder/on coating (paper fibers obscured)



Visual Identification Guide: LAYER STRUCTURE (AT 50X MAGNIFICATION)



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atlas
www.graphicsatlas.org

IMAGE IN/ON PAPER FIBERS (PAPER FIBERS VISIBLE)

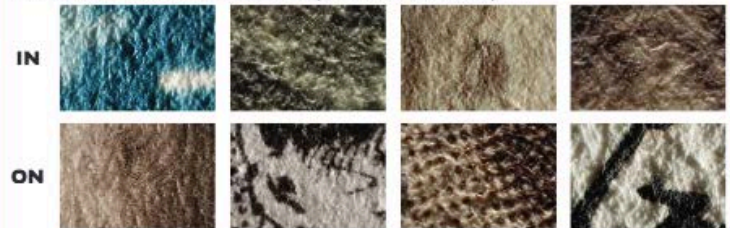


IMAGE ABOVE PAPER FIBERS, IN BINDER/ON COATING (PAPER FIBERS VISIBLE)

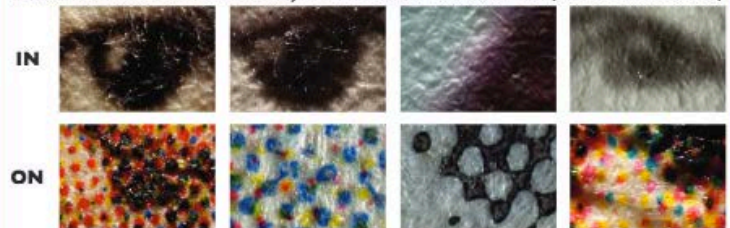


IMAGE IN BINDER/ON COATING (PAPER FIBERS OBSCURED)



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Magnification View

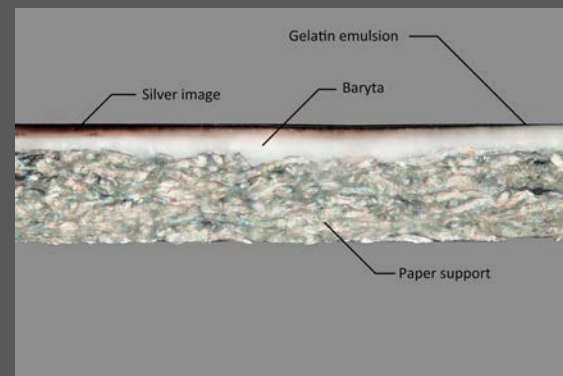
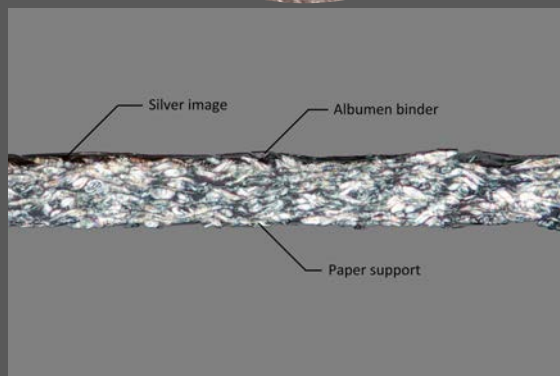
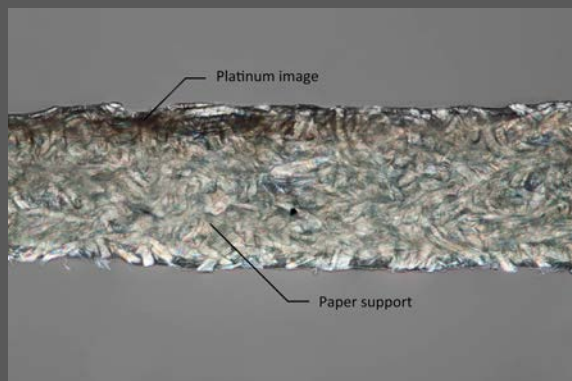
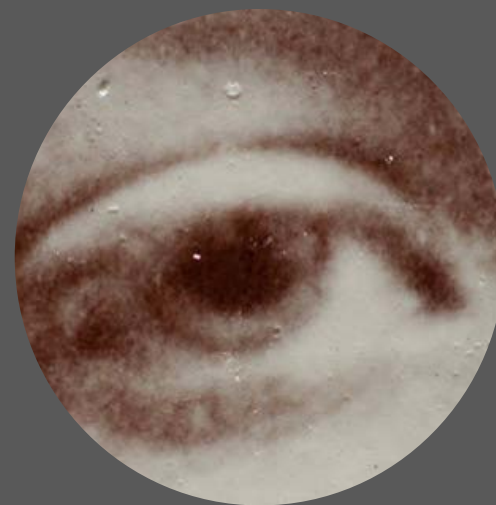


Image in paper fibers, paper fibers visible

Image above paper fibers in binder, paper fibers visible

Image in binder, paper fibers obscured

Magnification View



Image on paper fibers,
paper fibers visible

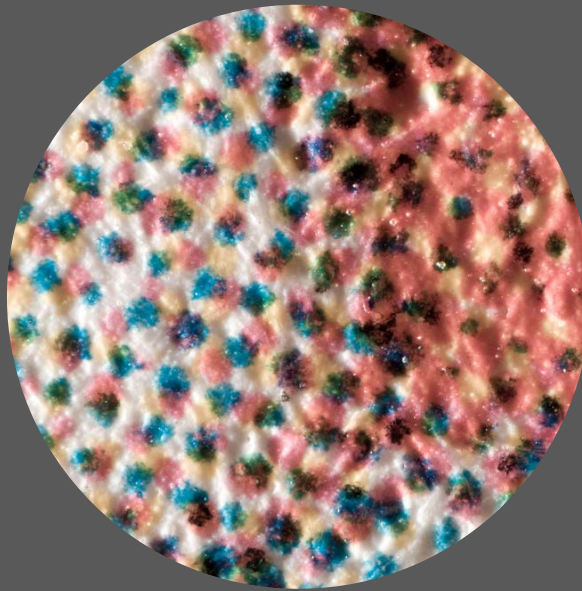


Image above paper fibers
on coating, paper fibers
visible

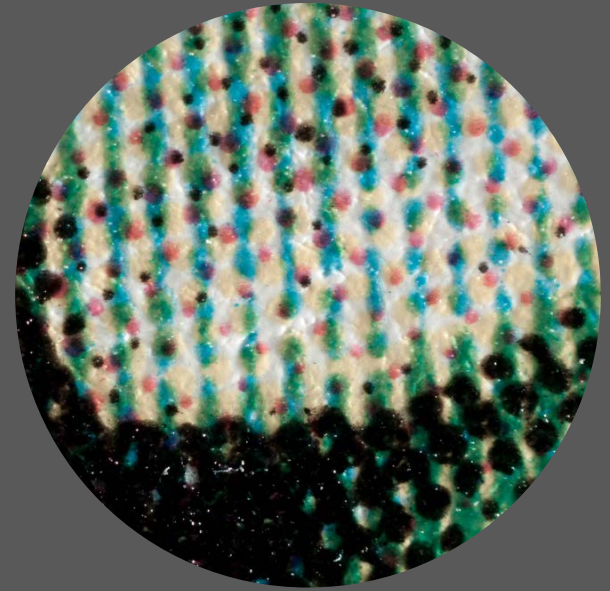


Image on coating, paper
fibers obscured

Magnification View

Layer Structure

- Image in/on paper fibers (paper fibers visible)
- Image above paper fibers, in binder/on coating (paper fibers visible)
- Image in binder/on coating (paper fibers obscured)



Visual Identification Guide: LAYER STRUCTURE (AT 50X MAGNIFICATION)



Graphics
atlas
www.graphicsatlas.org

IMAGE IN/ON PAPER FIBERS (PAPER FIBERS VISIBLE)

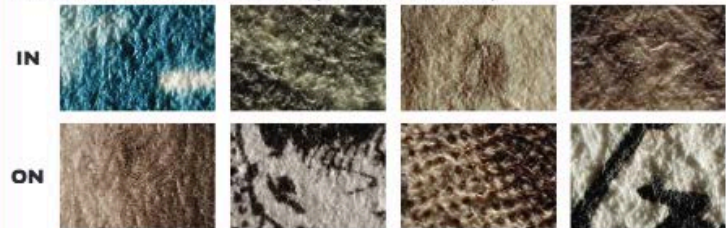


IMAGE ABOVE PAPER FIBERS, IN BINDER/ON COATING (PAPER FIBERS VISIBLE)

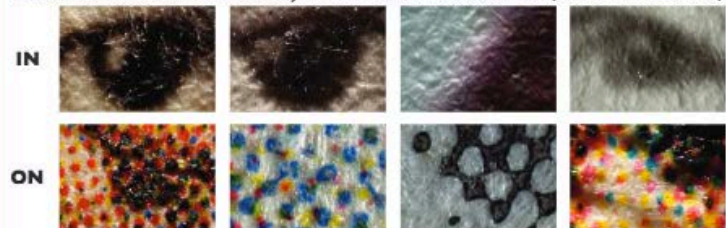
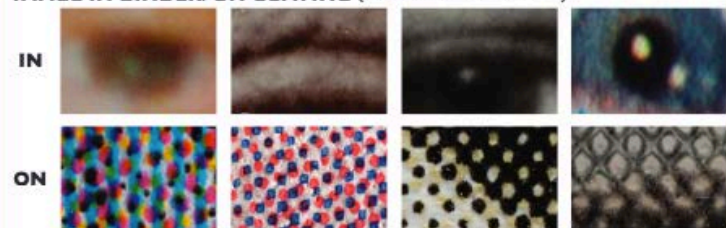


IMAGE IN BINDER/ON COATING (PAPER FIBERS OBSCURED)



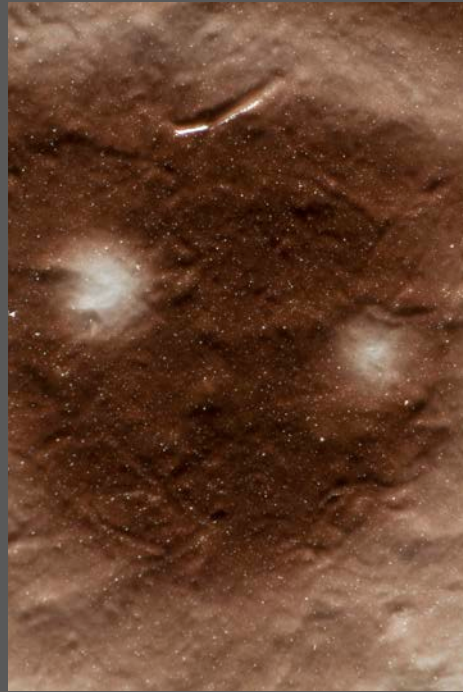
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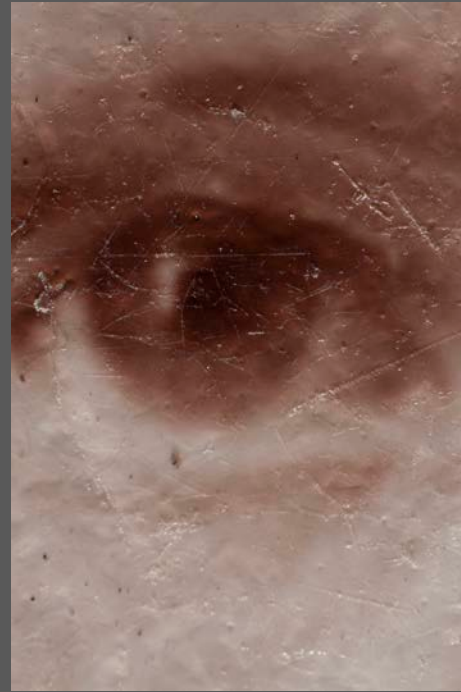
Magnification View: Layer Structure



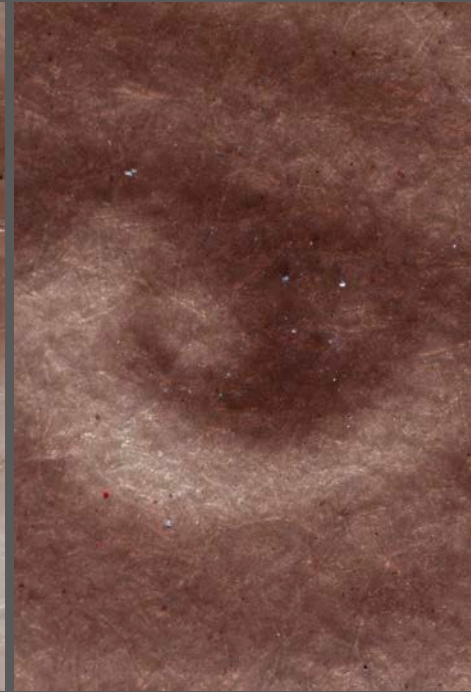
1



2



3



4

Magnification View: Layer Structure



1

Visual Identification Guide:
LAYER STRUCTURE
 (AT 50X MAGNIFICATION)

LIGHT SOURCE: 90°

Graphics Atlas
 www.graphicsatlas.org

IMAGE IN/ON PAPER FIBERS (PAPER FIBERS VISIBLE)

IN				
ON				

IMAGE ABOVE PAPER FIBERS, IN BINDER/ON COATING (PAPER FIBERS VISIBLE)

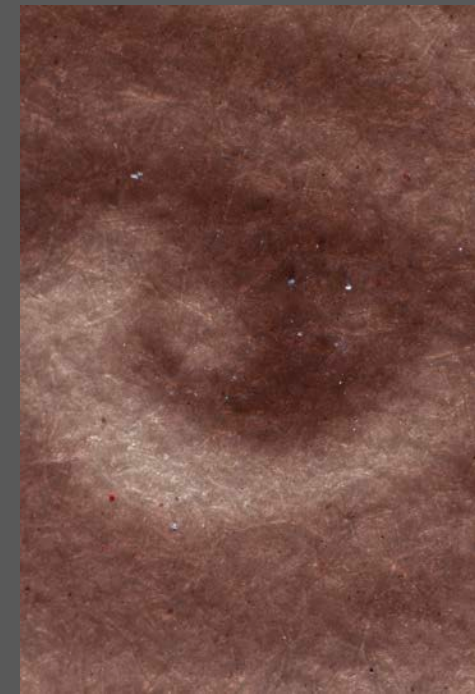
IN				
ON				

IMAGE IN BINDER/ON COATING (PAPER FIBERS OBSCURED)

IN				
ON				

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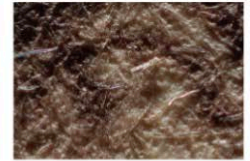
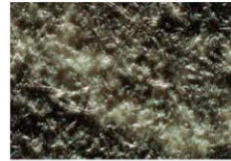
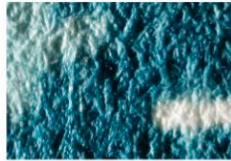
4

Magnification View: Layer Structure



IMAGE IN/ON PAPER FIBERS (PAPER FIBERS VISIBLE)

IN



ON

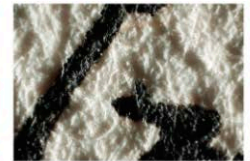
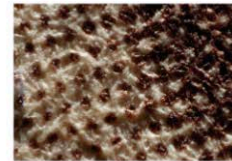
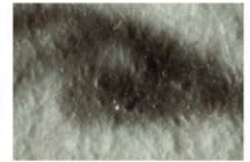
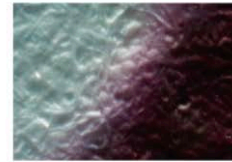
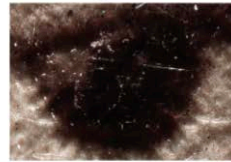
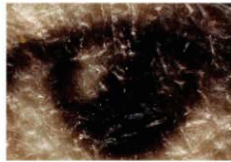
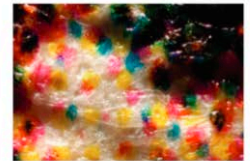
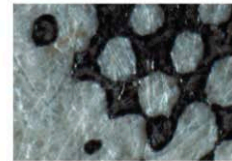
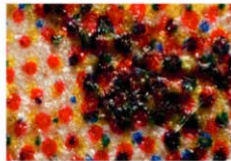


IMAGE ABOVE PAPER FIBERS, IN BINDER/ON COATING (PAPER FIBERS VISIBLE)

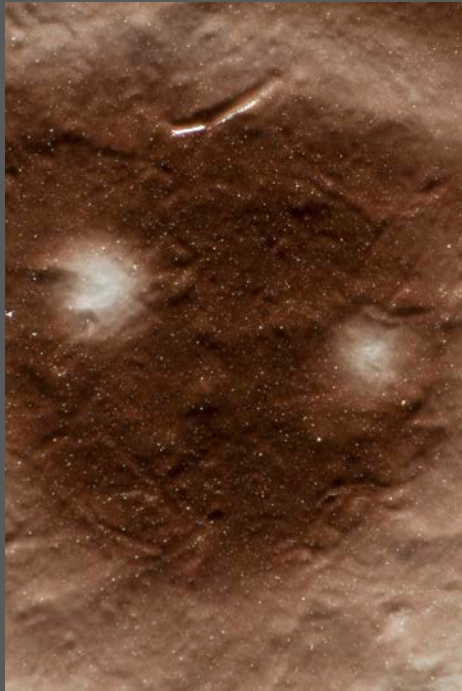
IN



ON



Magnification View: Layer Structure



2

Visual Identification Guide:
LAYER STRUCTURE
 (AT 50X MAGNIFICATION)

Graphics Atlas
 www.graphicsatlas.org

LIGHT SOURCE: 90°

IMAGE IN/ON PAPER FIBERS (PAPER FIBERS VISIBLE)

IN				
ON				

IMAGE ABOVE PAPER FIBERS, IN BINDER/ON COATING (PAPER FIBERS VISIBLE)

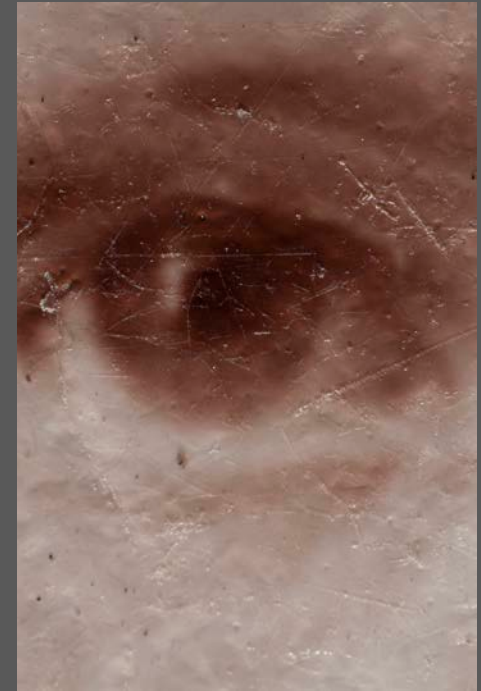
IN				
ON				

IMAGE IN BINDER/ON COATING (PAPER FIBERS OBSCURED)

IN				
ON				

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3

Magnification View: Layer Structure





Magnification View

Key Identifying Features

- Image Structure
- Layer Structure








Methods of Looking

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Graphics Atlas is a sophisticated resource that presents a unique, object-based approach for the identification and characterization of prints and photographs.

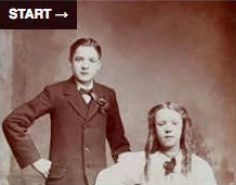
FEATURED OBJECTS:



[browse all 219 objects in the collection »](#)

BEGIN EXPLORING OUR STUDY COLLECTION BY SELECTING THE FOLLOWING TOOLS:

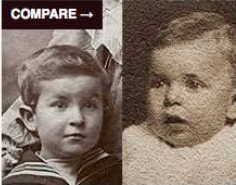
START →



Guided Tour

Take a tour through individual prints in a virtual study collection that contains processes ranging from woodcut to modern inkjet prints.

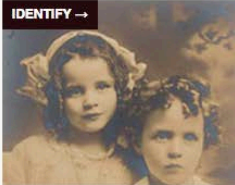
COMPARE →



Compare

Compare traits between processes using views made with a variety of lighting techniques and magnifications.


IDENTIFY →



Identification


Learn the key identifying characteristics of each process. These pages contain information on how to identify print processes.

VIEW →



Picture of the Week

Sign up for a weekly email highlighting an interesting picture from our collection.

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Survey & Thank You

Thank you!

- National Endowment for the Humanities Division of Preservation and Access
- The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

Next Webinar

- Wednesday, January 10, 2:00pm EST
- A Methodology for Process Identification, Part 2

Survey!

- A brief survey will appear at the end, please give us feedback!