

Dry Surface Cleaning Of Paintings – Fraser Spafford Ricci Art & Archival Conservation Inc.

Paintings

If the painting does not have a backing board or frame, put the painting on a table on its top edge (i.e. turn upside down), and angle the painting toward you. Knock the bottom of the stretcher bar with the end of a hog hair brush to knock dirt loose from between the stretcher and the canvas.



Step 1: Tapping to knock dirt from behind the auxiliary support (stretcher)



Step 2: Using a microspatula to clean between the stretcher and canvas



Step 3: Using a vacuum and Soft Brush to clean the front of the painting



Step 4: Cleaning the back of the painting horizontally on a padded surface

This process is also aided by the use of a microspatula or spatula inserted gently between the canvas and the lower stretcher bar. Use a soft brush on the face of the painting (e.g. a hake brush), brushing into a vacuum. A smaller painting may be cleaned on a table, but a larger work should be cleaned against a wall on padded blocks or on an easel. If a painting has a frame but no backing board, it may be cleaned front and back using brushes into a vacuum. Although a spatula may be used to clean between the lower stretcher bar and the canvas (with the painting upside down), the frame will prevent the technician from knocking the bottom of the stretcher.



Step 5: Dry surface cleaning a large painting vertically