

CG0012 Beyond the Artist's Eye – Painting Secrets Revealed

Senior Paintings Conservator at National Museums Liverpool, David Crombie, submitted an application in early 2021 for funding for a project based on the study of two Renaissance paintings held in the collections of the Walker Art Gallery.



“We are seeking support for a project conservator to carry out the imaging of two major paintings from the Walker over five weeks, generating unique material for our website. This would be posted in advance of the re-opening of the Walker, to build engagement and anticipation with our audiences.”

Giulia Campagnari, an experienced paintings conservator from Italy originally, took on the task of mastering a new piece of equipment, the Hirox high resolution digital microscope, so she could create a series of images of two paintings at unprecedented levels of detail.

“Giulia has gained valuable experience of using the unit to produce high quality images, in turn benefitting others as she passes her knowledge on. We will be able to produce further high-quality images and scans relating to all kinds of different objects in NML’s collections. In addition, visitors to NML’s website have also been able to see the posted image results and explanatory text, giving them a deeper insight into the artworks.”

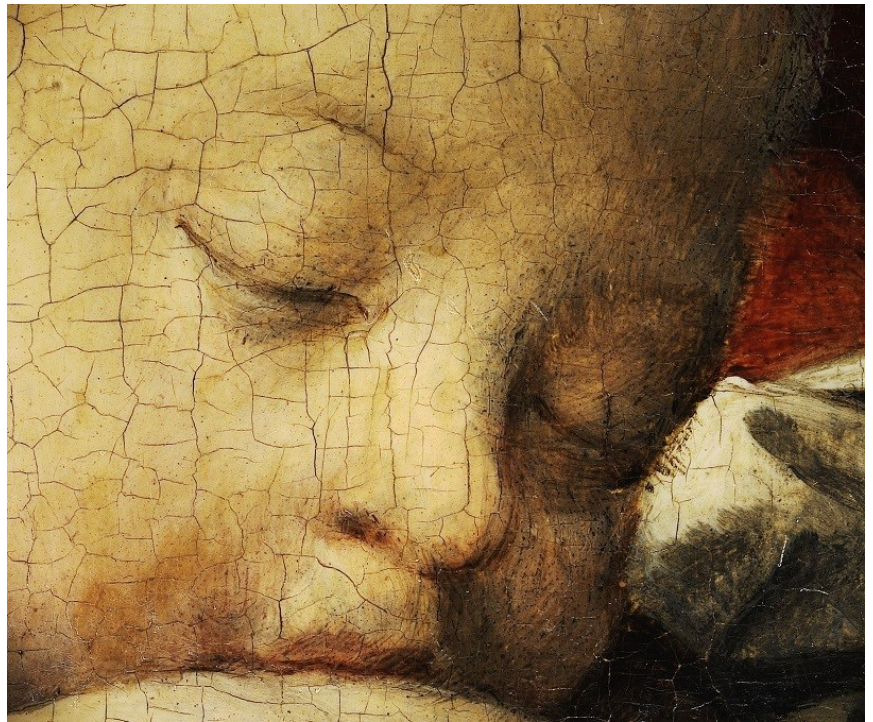


The digital microscope is a complicated piece of equipment and David Crombie reported back to the foundation:

“It is important to say that without the UMFFTA funding, we would not have been able to make this first major step towards understanding the unit to get the best results from it.”

The new machine has allowed the curatorial staff, researchers and students to gain new insights into the skills of two Renaissance artists.

“Visitors to our ‘behind the scenes’ painting studios have commented on what an in-depth insight the images have given them into artists’ painting techniques.”



The project is part of the ongoing plans to redisplay the Renaissance galleries at the Walker Art Gallery where the two paintings:

- ♦ *The Virgin and Child with Angels*, by Joos Van Cleve, c.1525
 - ♦ *Lamentation over the Dead Christ*, by the Master of the Virgo Inter Virgines, c.1486
- will eventually go on show.



Ulrike Michal was particularly interested in artists of the Renaissance period so the Trustees were particularly pleased to be able to support this project.

**Funding support:
£2,920**

