

EINLADUNG

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VORTRAG

von

Dr. Han Neevel

Instituut Collectie Nederland (The Netherlands Institute for Cultural Heritage),
P.O. Box 76709, 1070 KA Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Non-invasive Identification of Van Gogh's Drawing Inks

Donnerstag, 28. Mai 2009, 16:00 Uhr

Akademie der bildenden Künste, Schillerplatz 3

Vortragssaal M 13 (nach Portierloge rechts, Mezzanin)

Curriculum Vitae **Johan Gerrit Neevel (Han)**

Han studied chemistry at the University of Utrecht, where he obtained his master's degree in *Analytical Chemistry* (main task) and *Physical Organic Chemistry* (secondary task) in 1984. Research topics were the development of an ultra sensitive analytical method for determining lead in blood serum (main task) and the construction of a synthetic membrane with ionophores for transport of metal ions (secondary task). In 1985 he started with his Ph.D.-study at the Delft University of Technology, where he studied a model system for the photocatalytic fading of azo dyes on cellulosic substrates. This research project was conducted under the guidance of Prof. Dr H.C.A. van Beek, who unfortunately deceased in 1988. It was finished in September 1992 when he obtained his Ph.D.-title with Prof. Dr H. van Bekkum of the Department of Organic Chemistry and Catalysis.

In 1990 and 1991 Han worked at the Royal Library in The Hague on a desk research project into the mass conservation of books and archival material. In 1991 and 1992 he also conducted two research projects on the measurement of the UV-content of the light emitted by photocopying machines and electronic flashguns for the former Central Research Laboratory for Objects of Art and Science (CL) in Amsterdam.

In March 1993 he started at this institute with the Iron-Gall Ink Corrosion Project, which was continued in the Netherlands Institute for Cultural Heritage, formed in 1997 from a merge between the CL, the School of Conservation and the Netherlands Office for Fine Art. In cooperation with Birgit Reissland, he has developed an aqueous method to stabilise ink corroded artefacts, based on the iron-complexing agent phytate. In the form of a workshop, this method has been presented to and accepted by conservators in many countries. Between 2002 and 2005 he was involved in the European project InkCor, in which he developed and tested a spectrophotometric method for ink identification, as well as spot tests for iron and copper. Since 2005 he is involved with the identification of Van Gogh's drawing inks in the programme of Van Gogh's Studio Practice in Context, where Van Gogh's paintings, drawings and letters are studied in comparison with works of contemporaries to find out more about Van Gogh's way of working. Also, he is involved with the development and evaluation of a microfading tester, with which it should be possible to obtain light fastness data on originals to predict changes during exhibition.