

AN INNOVATIVE METHOD TO REMOVE PRESSURE-SENSITIVE TAPE FROM CONTEMPORARY FELT-TIP PEN AND BALLPOINT PEN DRAWINGS ON PAPER. THE CASE STUDIES OF FEDERICO FELLINI FROM RIMINI FILM LIBRARY

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The removal of aged Pressure-Sensitive Tape (PST) is one of the most common issues during the restoration of drawings, as aged PST on paper can damage or negatively affect the artwork.

The removal of these materials, especially when applied on contemporary inks such as felt-tip pen, has to be considered carefully as it can present challenges that might not be successfully resolved using established approaches and materials. Conservators are familiar with many tape-removal methods including: mechanical action, immersion, poultices; each method however presents some associated risks, which may result in undesirable changes of the artwork (e.g. media bleeding, tidelines).

The purpose of this study is to develop a safe method to remove PSTs from works of art with felt-tip pen and ballpoint pen technique.

The study commenced with the preparation of test samples, exposed to accelerated aging treatment, choosing PSTs and techniques similar to those of the drawings by Fellini examined as case studies in this research.

Organogels based on the crosslinking of poly(methyl methacrylate) and poly(ethyl methacrylate) loaded with diethyl carbonate have been tested as a new removal system, made of gel and a non-toxic solvent. Applied directly on the PST, they led to removal of the backing and the adhesive of the PST.

The positive results obtained on test samples have been applied on Fellini's works, representing the first case of removability of PST from felt-tip pen and ballpoint pen artworks.

Key-words: Pressure-sensitive tape (PST), Tape stain removal, Felt-tip pen, Ballpoint pen, Organogel