

NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
**GERALD R. FORD CONSERVATION CENTER**

1326 South 32<sup>nd</sup> Street, Omaha, NE 68105, Phone (402) 595-1180

**CONSERVATION TREATMENT REPORT**

**Client:** St. John's Lutheran Church

**Report Date:** 6/22/18

**Address:** 877 N Columbia Ave, Seward, NE  
68434

**Phone:** (402) 817-9895

**Object(s):** Growth Forms #2

**Treated By:** Hilary LeFevere

The object was treated as proposed with the following notes and comments:

First, loose surface soiling on the recto and verso of the piece was reduced using cosmetic sponges. The blue media along the left side of the painting was mechanically reduced using a scalpel. Abraded areas of the paper near the center were consolidated using gelatin adhesive to prevent further damage (Photo grade gelatin, American Gelatin Company®, Binghamton, NY). Areas of skinned paper or media loss were inpainted using PVA resins and pigments (PVA AYAA and AYAC polyvinyl acetate resins (Union Carbide Corp., Houston, TX). The painting and board were then tested for humidification. Testing showed that the board could be somewhat flattened. A series of humidification with ultrasonic water vapor and flattening under weights was done to reduce undulations along the right side of the board. The piece was wrapped in glassine and placed in a rigid blue board folder for safe transportation and temporary housing prior to reframing. Overall, the painting is now in better condition having been cleaned and flattened.

**LONG TERM CARE RECOMMENDATIONS:**

It is important to maintain stable environmental conditions as much as possible because paper is susceptible to fluctuations in temperature and humidity. Works of art on paper should always be stored in a living part of the house, like the ground floor, rather than in attics or basements. Avoiding rooms with fireplaces will reduce the need for future cleaning. An environment that is a comfortable temperature for personal habitation is also sufficient for most paper artifacts. Relative humidity between 30-50% and temperatures consistently below 70 degrees fahrenheit are thought to be best.


To keep light damage to a minimum, do not display the painting in direct sunlight. UV light has an especially damaging effect on paper and media that is irreversible. Light in all spectrums can damage paper, so limiting the amount of time all paper artifacts are displayed is good practice. Choosing a UV-filtering glazing (glass or plexiglass) is the best option for filtering out harmful light when framing paper artifacts. UV filtering films can also be

purchased and applied to windows to reduce the amount of harmful light in a space.

It is recommended that the painting be matted using 100% rag, microchamber technology matboard (such as Alpharag Artcare®). This material contains zeolites, which act as molecular traps to neutralize harmful products that cause acidity and lead to degradation in paper. High-quality materials like this will help to better ensure the longevity of the painting. Microchamber matboard can be purchased through conservation suppliers such as Gaylord Archival and Talas, or can be requested at professional frames shops.

When reframing, it is recommended to use a frame spacer to create a gap between the glazing and the artwork. This allows for air to circulate inside the frame which decreases chances for mold growth and prevents the object from becoming attached to the glazing. Spacers are available online and at craft stores like Hobby Lobby or Michaels.

Although the materials chosen for treatment were as stable as possible, all materials age and deteriorate over time. Periodic examination by a conservator is recommended, perhaps every five years, to review the overall condition and carry out re-treatment, as needed.

Conservator:  Date: 6/22/18



2017.130.04 BT Growth #2 (1) - 01/06



2017.130.04 AT Growth #2 (2) - 02/06



2017.130.04 BT Growth #2 (4) - 03/06



2017.130.04 AT Growth #2 (7) - 04/06





2017.130.04 BT Growth #2 (5) - 05/06



2017.130.04 AT Growth #2 (5) - 06/06