

ABSTRACT

Mounting and Framing the 20 Iconic Plates from 'Jazz' by Henri Matisse

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This presentation will outline the technical work undertaken by the paper conservation team at the National Galleries of Scotland to prepare for exhibition the 20 pochoir plates from Matisse's 1947 artist book Jazz.

Since entering the collection in 1981, this copy of Jazz exists in the original loose-leaf folio state which in addition to the plates includes pages of text, a cover and a slip case. The request to separate the plates from the text block for a framed display in the summer of 2022 raised concerns over whether the intervention would compromise the artist's intention. Through internal discussions and a survey of how other collecting institutions have approached this particular object, we were able to agree that a flexible solution for their framed display was required.

We will describe how we devised the technical solution of an 'Eyelet hinge' which will allow for temporary, and repeat, exhibition of the plates. The combination of the Eyelet with the float mount method of pull-through hinges allows for the central fold in each plate to be evident in their presentation, thereby referencing the book format from which they have been temporarily removed. Financial and environmental sustainability issues also featured in the design solution, as it was considered crucial that the commissioned frames should be re-usable for other objects in the future.

This project will be jointly presented to reflect the collaboration between technician and conservator in defining a solution that effectively addressed technical and material issues alongside preservation and ethical concerns.

BIO

Charlotte Park

Charlotte Park trained as a paper conservator at the University of Melbourne, Australia.

Since graduating in 2005 she has had experience working both in the private sector and for collecting institutions in the UK and Australia. She has been a member of the Paper conservation team at the National Galleries of Scotland for 10 years and key projects that have marked her career have involved technical challenges brought by modern and contemporary artists.



BIO

Sarah Laing

Sarah Laing is an Art Handling and Conservation Technician. She has worked for organizations such as Katzen Art Centre at American University, National Museums Scotland and Royal Collection Trust.

She took the role of Senior Conservation Technician for Works on Paper at the National Galleries of Scotland in July 2020, where she provides expertise and advice for mounting, framing, packing and transportation of a wide variety of paper-based artworks.

