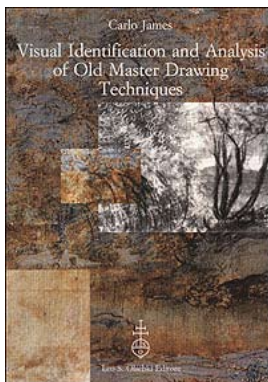


CARLO JAMES

VISUAL IDENTIFICATION
AND ANALYSIS
OF OLD MASTER DRAWING
TECHNIQUES

After a short introduction on the historical context surrounding the use of drawing techniques, chapter two and three of this guide pass in review selected fundamentals regarding the history and technology of wet and dry media, crucial for their visual identification and analysis. This information is easily accessible to those familiar with or interested in Old Master drawings. An attempt is made to clarify the connection between ancient media and modern terminology. With the aid of numerous illustrations, chap-



ter four outlines a step by step method for identifying the different media used. An essential part is dedicated to the identification of iron-gall and bistre inks, the most delicate problem, one that is not always possible to resolve visually. The identification of the different inks is mostly based on their characteristic physical behaviour. A section illustrates the possibilities and contribution of scientific analysis when visual identification falls short. Chapter five gives some supplementary scientific information.

La descrizione delle tecniche di disegno dei grandi maestri in cataloghi e pubblicazioni di storia dell'arte è divenuta oggi molto approssimativa. Si presume che solo un'analisi scientifica in laboratorio, lunga e costosa, potrebbe apportare un miglioramento in questo settore. La presente guida permette a storici dell'arte e restauratori di identificare la maggior parte di queste tecniche a occhio nudo e di descriverle con precisione.

Carlo James obtained a Master's degree in engraving at the Istituto Statale d'Arte in Florence and was trained in paper conservation by Sergio Boni. From 1973 to 2005 he was director of the paper conservation laboratory at the Fondation Custodia in Paris. He taught paper conservation from 1980 to 1986 at the IFROA and from 1997 to 2005 at the INP. His publications include: C. James et al., *Manuale per la conservazione e il restauro di disegni e stampe antichi*, (Florence, Leo S. Olschki Editore 1991), English version: AUP, Amsterdam 1997 and numerous articles in scientific reviews. He retired in 2005. For more information see: *Amplius Vetusta Servare*, Il Prato, Associazione Secco Suardo 2006, pp. 261-267.

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