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Art Preservation Index Helps Collectors Understand Their Assets

By [Nicole Vacherot](#) | Published 2 September 2014

On the market or behind the bench, the call for standardisation from all sectors of the art world has been answered by a growing number of creative, down-right clever technologies and services. Enter the Art Preservation Index ([APIx](#)), an emerging company that has developed a standardised rating system to assess the stability of “blue-chip” paintings and other artwork that may deteriorate over time and to reduce and protect investment risks in the fine art market. In the wake of the Harvard-Rothko debacle, this seems like a no-brainer and like the best of innovations; it doesn't replace the human element but enhances it.

Appropriately, the APIx rating system works under a similar model as well-known indexes for the financial sector (i.e. FTSE and S&P). Fine art is a major investment; a fact cunningly depicted in [APIx's August press release](#). So, in hindsight it is surprising that a rating system of this sort is not already in place to some degree. Nonetheless, APIx is on the horizon and has developed quite a sophisticated scoring process based on scientific and historical research. They staff a professional team to analyse each piece of art by “assessments of material, application and the way they interact chemically and physically”. A full report accompanies the rating along with specific suggestions for the care and upkeep of the artwork. The goal is neither to encourage nor to deter during the buying process but to inform and bring greater transparency to the art market.

APIx is on mark for benefiting the conservation field as well. Co-creator Emily MacDonald-Korth is an Art Perseveration Specialist and is keen that the rating system will not only create a higher profile but the potential for more work for fellow conservators. Its inception could potentially open up new international dialogue and collaboration toward the stabilization of artwork. It is a very exciting prospect.

At [Articheck](#) we are happy to see emerging tools such as APIx in tandem with ours. Pioneering the induction of industry standards will support the field of conservation and the art world at large. This boon can only lead the way to more opportunities for growth, understanding of the craft and challenges to be tackled in the future. Welcome to the 21st century...it's all about the art!



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