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Art Preservation Index patent filed

Posted on **August 29, 2014** by **Stephanie Bartup**

A provisional patent application for a new tool designed to standardize the stability of blue-chip artwork has been filed.

The patent for the Art Preservation Index (APIx) comprises a rating system similar to investment ratings for the financial industry, but with the goal to quantify stability-related investment risks for fine art.

APIx scores are generated by scientific and historical research that is completed by professionals who base their artwork analyses on assessments of the materials, their application, and the way they interact chemically and physically to determine their sustainability.

Its inventor said that the product could help prevent deterioration to valuable assets such as the Rothko paintings recently donated to Harvard University that irreparably faded after exposure to harmful light over the years.

"Experts know the materials Rothko commonly used to paint his remarkable color studies are unstable. Yet a Rothko painting, almost certainly painted using similar light-sensitive colorants, was recently sold at auction for over \$56m," said Emily MacDonald-Korth, one of the inventors of the rating system.

"This new buyer would have been alerted to the vulnerability to fading if APIx had been consulted prior to purchasing the investment. Art conservators know that a great deal of art being sold today may deteriorate quickly and cause the monetary value to decline – precipitously in some cases."