



SOUTH COAST  
FINE ART  
CONSERVATION  
CENTER, INC.

Santa Barbara County Courthouse  
Final Assessment & Cleaning Protocol  
February 18, 2010

- DESCRIPTION:** The Mural Room.  
Dan Sayre Groesbeck.  
66ft. 4" long x 36ft. 8" wide x 22 ft. high. (4100 sq. ft total).  
Oil on prepared muslim mounted on walls.  
Unvarnished 98%, Varnished 2%
- CONDITION:** The paintings are located on all four walls of the room. The paintings are unvarnished except for approximately 2% of the surface where old repairs were made. The mural is covered in black soot and smoke. Upper areas of the mural, particularly near wall vents, also have a greasy yellow/brown surface dirt and smoke.
- TESTING:** Extensive testing was completed on several areas of the mural. Results indicate that the mural was never varnished, making the murals more sensitive to cleaning and removal of smoke from the surface. The sky areas of the painting appear stable. Some areas are more fugitive and include darker pigmented colors and areas of thin glazing.
- TREATMENT:** The mural will be cleaned with a 2% Citric Acid Solution balanced with ammonia to a pH 8 (98% distilled water) in a methyl cellulose powder as a gelling agent. Followed by a rinse of 1% acetic acid, balanced with ammonia to a pH 8 (98% distilled water). Areas of particular sensitivity will have a further diluted solution. Upper areas of greasy surface dirt may have a small amount of Vulpex added to the solution.

Patricia West, Director  
South Coast Fine Arts Conservation Center



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CONSERVATION ESTIMATE  
FOR  
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
April 13, 2010

DESCRIPTION: The Mural Room  
Dan Sayre Groesbeck  
4100 sq. ft.  
Oil on Muslim mounted onto walls.

CONDITION: The surface is covered with smoke due to the January 2010  
electrical fire at the Santa Barbara County Courthouse.

TREATMENT: Clean smoke layer from the murals covering an area of  
approximately 4100 sq. ft.

ESTIMATE: \$450,000.  
Estimate covers the conservation team, materials, insurance and  
parking fees. Scaffolding to be provided by the Courthouse.  
It is estimated that the project will take 4 months to complete  
however unforeseen problems could lengthen the time needed for  
completion. We do not anticipate the cost to exceed the estimate  
given.

PAYMENT: 25% payment ( \$112,500.) must be paid to South Coast Fine Arts  
Conservation Center before work commences. Anticipated start  
of the project is the beginning of May 2010. Invoices for each  
subsequent payment will be submitted one week before the next  
monthly installment is due (25%).

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South Coast Fine Arts Conservation Center