

*Sherman Art Conservation Studio*

*30 Jerome Drive*

*Glen Cove, New York 11542*

*Tel. (516) 671-9435*

Painting Title: Self-Portrait

Artist: William Robertson (1857)

Type: Oil on canvas

Measurements: 30" x 25"

Inscriptions: None

Date of Examination: October 11, 1984

State of Conservation

Support: The linen canvas support was previously lined onto another piece of linen with an aqueous adhesive (probably glue). At the present, the lining is in good condition. The painting does sag a bit but this condition can be corrected by keying out the stretcher. The original tacking edges of the canvas were removed during the previous lining. The size of the original painted surface was slightly smaller than the present painted surface as all four sides are overpainted to cover this difference. However, this difference is slight as it amounts to less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch on each side.

Ground: The ground appears to be a gesso ground which is white in color. There are a few areas of scattered flaking throughout the painting. These areas should be consolidated. There is evidence that the painting was previously damaged along the bottom edge. There are areas of re-done fills, especially in the lower right corner. These areas of damage are hidden by the darkened varnish. There is a slight age-crackle present in the ground. This crackle is not as pronounced as one would expect from a painting this age, but this may be attributed to the lining which has probably kept the painting in a somewhat stable condition,

Paint Film: The oil-based paint film is limited to the areas of the face, hand and background. The rest of the painting is unfinished as much of the pencil underdrawing is visible. Because of this, the painting provides an interesting insight into the working style of the artist. As previously mentioned, there was much damage to the bottom of the painting which has resulted in an almost entire re-painting of the bottom edge. In addition, there is much retouching, and even areas of complete overpainting in

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