



CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT

Bid Number:
2025.07.01



(For more condition photographs, please see object file)

Date: October 24, 2025

Contact:

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Object:

Floral Painted Velvet Square

Object ID:

2024.09.09.04

Description:

A piece of black velvet that has been painted and embroidered with a floral motif resembling red clover. The embroidery threads, which are likely silk, create the stems, provide veining on the leaf structures, and outline the petals of the clover flowers. The threads are overpainted, emphasizing the artwork's textural nature. The velvet is stretched over a stiffened backing, likely cardboard, to provide support.

Velvet paintings have been an art form for many centuries, with origins in the Kashmir province of India, where the fabric originated. The dark color of the velvet provides contrast for lighter colored paints. Velvet painting was a common hobby or "parlor art" for middle- and upper-class women during the 19th century, popularized in the European royal courts and spreading through commercially available instruction booklets. Widespread subjects included fruits and flowers, and were often used to decorate small personal items, such as purses, fans, and other dress accessories.

Measurements:

Height- 7 ½"

Width- 7 ½"

Category:

Textile

Artwork/Textile Art/Painted Velvet

Needlework/Embroidery

Location:

Box 12

Display Case 102

Charles Whipple Greene Historical Collection

George Hail Free Library

Condition Analysis:

The overall condition of this piece is good. There is a layer of dust covering much of the velvet pile surface. The front is turned to the back and secured with thread crisscrossing the back board; this thread is embrittled and may need replacing. The identity of the support material is unknown at this time but should be examined further.

Recommended Treatments:

Vacuum surface with a conservation grade HEPA vacuum to remove surface accretions and dust. Test the interior support board for fiber content and pH level; replace the board if necessary to maintain the velvet's structural and chemical stability. Replace or resecure the stitching on verso if necessary.