

Fine Art Condition Report

Artist: Alice Neel (American, 1900–1984)

Title: *Dr. William Hanaway Jr.*

Medium: Oil on canvas

Canvas Dimensions: 26 × 24 inches

Framed Dimensions: 29 × 27 inches

Frame: Silver toned frame

Exhibition History: Reportedly never exhibited

Literature: Reportedly unpublished

Overall Condition

The painting presents with visible surface characteristics associated with the artist's paint application, along with localized condition issues including lifting and flaking paint, minor scattered craquelure, two horizontal stretcher-related lines, and small areas of paint loss.

The most significant condition concern is localized lifting and flaking of the paint layer within the sitter's dark hair, immediately beneath the hat. Additional minor paint losses are present within a dark blue painted passage near the edge of the composition.

The painting was examined under ultraviolet (UV) light, with no apparent inpainting or restoration observed.

Detailed Condition Observations

1. Lifting and Flaking Paint — Sitter's Hair

An area of localized lifting and flaking paint is present within the darkly painted hair immediately beneath the sitter's hat. The affected passage exhibits irregular cracking, raised and disrupted paint, and scattered small losses.

The lifting is particularly apparent along the upper hairline, where the dark paint meets the hat and forehead. This represents the principal condition concern observed. Although the affected area appears localized, the stability and adhesion of the surrounding paint have not been established through conservation examination. Evaluation by a qualified paintings conservator is recommended to determine whether consolidation or other stabilization is appropriate.

2. Horizontal Stretcher Related Lines

Two horizontal stretcher related lines are visible across the piece, one in the upper portion and another in the lower portion of the canvas.

These appear as linear surface impressions or distortions consistent in appearance with contact or pressure associated with the underlying stretcher.

The upper line is particularly noticeable within the light blue background, where the surface relief and paint texture emphasize the horizontal feature.

The lower line is visible near the bottom of the composition.

3. Craquelure

Minor scattered craquelure is visible throughout portions of the painted surface, particularly within the light blue background and other lighter painted passages.

The cracking is generally fine in scale and varies with the thickness and handling of the paint.

The localized lifting and flaking within the sitter's hair is separately noted as an area of greater concern. The stability of the remaining craquelure has not been independently assessed, but does not seem concerning at the point.

4. Small Areas of Paint Loss

A few small, scattered flecks of paint loss are visible within the dark blue painted passage containing a prominent curved or squiggled brushstroke, adjacent to the frame above the signature.

These losses are limited in extent.

5. Surface Texture and Paint Application

The painted surface exhibits varied and expressive brushwork, including passages of thinly applied paint, visible canvas texture, directional brushstrokes, and localized areas of heavier paint application. Certain areas of the composition display intentionally irregular paint coverage and exposed surface texture. These characteristics are consistent in appearance with the painting's method of execution and should be distinguished from subsequent damage or deterioration. No overall surface cleaning assessment has been undertaken.

6. Ultraviolet (UV) Examination

The painting was examined under ultraviolet light. No apparent inpainting, retouching, or restoration was observed during the examination. This finding applies to alterations detectable through the examination performed and does not conclusively exclude earlier conservation treatments that may not be apparent under ultraviolet illumination.

7. Canvas, Stretcher, and Frame

The painting is executed on canvas and housed in a silver-toned frame. Two horizontal stretcher-related lines are visible on the painted surface, as described above.

Provenance

Gift from the artist, Alice Neel, to the mother of the sitter, Dr. William Hanaway Jr.
Thence by descent in the sitter's family.
Retained by the sitter's family from the original gift until consignment to Alderfer Auction.
Provenance as reported by the consigning family.

Exhibition History

Reportedly never publicly exhibited.

Literature

Reportedly unpublished.

Conservation Considerations

The localized lifting and flaking paint within the sitter's hair beneath the hat is the primary conservation concern. Professional evaluation is recommended to determine the stability of the affected paint and whether consolidation is necessary. Until evaluated, care should be exercised during handling, packing, transportation, and display to avoid vibration, abrasion, or contact with the affected surface. No cleaning, consolidation, or other intervention is recommended without examination by a qualified paintings conservator.

Condition Summary

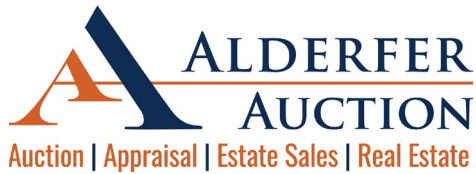
Alice Neel's *Dr. William Hanaway Jr.* exhibits localized lifting and flaking paint within the sitter's hair immediately beneath the hat, two horizontal stretcher-related impressions toward the upper and lower portions of the composition, minor scattered craquelure, and a few small flecks of paint loss within a dark blue painted passage near the edge of the canvas. The surface exhibits varied brushwork and paint texture, including areas of thinly applied paint and visible canvas weave.

Ultraviolet examination revealed no apparent inpainting or restoration.

The localized lifting and flaking paint represents the principal condition concern and warrants evaluation by a qualified paintings conservator. The painting is accompanied by reported direct provenance from Alice Neel to the sitter's mother and subsequent continuous ownership within the sitter's family. According to the consigning family, the painting has not previously been exhibited or published.

Report Disclaimer

This condition report reflects visual observations of the painting and the reported results of ultraviolet examination. Provenance and exhibition history are based on information supplied by the consigning family. The report is not a comprehensive technical or conservation assessment. The stability of the paint layers and the condition of concealed structural components have not been independently established. Condition statements are offered for informational purposes and should not be considered a guarantee of condition or a substitute for direct examination by prospective purchasers or their designated professional conservators.



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