

Abstract

In recent years, the world has witnessed a wide range of technical studies on oil paintings made by world-renowned artists. Most of these studies investigate technology and pathology, and while they analyze the techniques used by the artists, they also deal with the damages caused to the paintings by the materials used in the structure, and the effects of environmental and restoration factors. In Iran, due to the restrictions imposed by the museums and the collectors, very little study has been conducted in this field. In this project, a technological and pathological study has been done on ten paintings attributed to Kamal-ol-Molk exhibited in the Malek museum. Biased sensitivities shown towards Kamal-ol-Molk's works by the museum authorities and private collectors in the past prevented a thorough study on his paintings and, therefore, as the result of negligence, serious damages were caused to his works. Given the condition of his paintings, they were prioritized into three categories: "acceptable condition", "not urgent but needs attention" and "urgent condition". Attending to these works according to their urgencies provides the necessary conditions to preserve and maintain all the paintings. With regard to the duties and obligations of the restorer towards cultural and historical heritages, and to prevent further damage and negligence, the first step is to make an accurate technical and scientific analysis of the artifact, which will enable us to work more effectively in their restoration and maintenance. Such applied researches were carried out doing field studies on materials used by the artists and the materials used in their previous restorations as well as analyzing the damages caused by these materials coupled with the library and the Internet studies, laboratory studies and instrumental analysis. Having analyzed the obtained data, some recommendations were produced for protection of the said works. Some of the results obtained from this project include getting a better insight into the techniques of Kamal-ol-Molk, understanding his works, and lastly, providing recommendations for their maintenance, which mainly call for elimination of inappropriate materials used in their restoration.

Key words: Malek museum, Kamal-ol-Molk, oil painting, Technical Study and Pathology