

## **Abstract**

Cleaning of oil painting is a complicate and challenging work. There are several methods and many materials for cleaning dust and soot particles and removing deteriorated varnishes. Some of these methods and materials may have risks for paintings, conservators and environment. Therefore its necessary to find methods and materials with low risk. Moreover, using herbal materials would be safer and more affordable.

Sarcocolla (Anzarut) is a plant gum which used traditionally in medicine and art the both. It has used as a paint medium and suggested as a cleanser for grease from papers.

Dust and soot are common dirt which should be removed from oil paintings like deteriorated varnishes.

The procedure of finding the most effective extract from Sarcocolla gum for removing mentioned dirt from oil paint samples is explained in this project.

Based on experiments, hydro alcoholic extract from this gum was suitable for cleaning dust and soot but couldn't remove mastic, dammar and linseed oil varnishes. This extract also couldn't stabilized the deteriorated paint layer during cleaning.

**Keywords:** Sarcocolla, Oil painting, Cleaning, Dirt, Dust, Soot, Old varnish.