



POSTER: "Like" for Provenance Research and Conservation Treatment

Isabel Schneider
Brooklyn Museum

In 2019, the Brooklyn Museum acquired a Josean Dynasty-era, funerary ritual mask (BkM 2019.45.2) believed to represent a Bangsangsi (Korean: 방상시 탈) character. The piece had limited provenance and comparanda prompting the museum to conduct technical studies into how it was constructed and the identities of the colorants. Analysis methods included: microscopy, x-ray fluorescence (XRF) spectroscopy, x-radiography, and multiband imaging (MBI).

Of particular interest is the effort to identify the species of animal of the skins on the mask, which were severely insect damaged. The limited reference sources for North Asian mammal hair and the poor condition of the skins made microscopic analysis challenging. To expand the investigation, the conservators collaborated with the digital media department to develop a campaign for crowdsourcing their questions on social media. The project aimed to not only access the knowledge of a wide audience for research but also to highlight the work of conservators and provenance researchers.

The relatively large mask (over 70 cm in diameter) presented a variety of conservation challenges and demanded complex treatments. The poster will focus on the analysis and conservation treatment of the mask, including the impact of the social media campaign on provenance studies.

info@artbiomatters.org
<https://www.artbiomatters.org/>