

WHITE CONDUIT PROJECTS

“Interval Studies: Colour in Time”

Opening: Wed 23 Sept 6 – 8:30 pm

24 Sept – 18 Oct

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The history of pigments is also a history of chance, experimentation, and science. Of particular importance is the fact that, since ancient times, pigments have served as a means of human self-expression and have contributed to the formation of major artistic movements in human history, such as the Renaissance, Impressionism, and Modernism.

For contemporary society, color is a familiar part of everyday life. We are surrounded by vivid 4K and HD imagery, yet it is often overlooked that much of the colour we see today has been made possible by the accumulated knowledge of pigments and chemical ingenuity.

The changing colours of artworks, as they evolve over time, have long drawn the attention of artists, conservators, museum professionals, scientists, and art collectors, in that the images, messages, and ideas embodied in a work can become obscure or even be lost through discoloration and fading. Change is inevitable and, in many cases, irreversible. Natural aging can give a work a subdued character and is sometimes appreciated as “antique elegance,” whereas accidents, improper storage conditions, and misguided restoration can cause serious damage to cultural property.

In 1886, works displayed at the Victoria and Albert Museum, then the South Kensington Museum, sparked concern that exhibition might damage watercolors. Urban pollution, visitors’ humidity, and gas lighting were identified as risks, prompting scientific investigations to protect the works.

It is important to adopt a perspective that, from the stage of production, designs the materials and the manner of change with aging in mind. However, not all change is accepted as desirable, and determining how far a change should be regarded as an effect of aging and where restoration should begin remains an important issue.

Moreover, a work does not end at the moment of completion; it is also an entity that continues to change over time. Oxidation, pollution, humidity, abrasion, and other factors alter colour and texture, and such changes can sometimes lend a work greater depth and narrative quality.

The aging effect is an expressive approach that allows time to become a collaborator. It is a beauty shaped by the passage of time, slowly unfolding as the work lives on.

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Gallery Hours

Wed + Thu: 11am – 6pm

Fri 12pm – 5pm

Sat 12pm – 6pm

Sun 11am – 4pm

Nearest station  Angel