

TO RESTORE OR NOT TO RESTORE

If you are keeping the art, you like it, you want to continue to enjoy it, then, have it cleaned, the flaws fixed, take steps for its long term conservation.

If you are a treasure hunter, an investor, a speculator and you want to sell the art as soon as possible to cash in, don't get any restoration done.

The reason is that the art market does not like restored art. It particularly does not like recently restored art. The British call it "doctored up".

If the art is more than 70 years old, restoration makes it very difficult or in many cases impossible to authenticate the art.

Restoration covers up the real condition of the art, it covers up how much restoration was done previously, it covers up wear and tear, evidence of the passage of time, it covers up authenticity.

If you are going to sell, recent restoration will hurt you. Authenticity will be questioned. It will be harder to sell and it will sell for a lot less. It may even not sell at all.

If you are a seller, beware of restoration.

The art market loves art offered "as is" and "as found" in "original untouched condition".

This is the art that is easiest to sell and reaches the highest prices.

