



Museum Textile Services

Methyl Cellulose consolidant for thangka paintings (lining and spray consolidant versions)

Mix 16 teaspoons of Fluka Methyl Cellulose powder and 16 ounces of hot distilled water. Stir and let sit to gel. Cool to room temperature. Store concentrate in the refrigerator.

Spray gun solution:

Mix 4 ounces of concentrated MC solution (see above), 2 quarts ethanol or denatured alcohol, and 2 quarts minus ½ cup distilled water to make 1 gallon total of solution.

Procedure for lining a thangka painting with silk crepeline:

Adhesive mixture:

1 part ethyl acetate/methylcellulose concentrate (1:1 v/v)
2 parts Lascaux Plextol B500 (3:1 in water)

- 1) Tape silk crepeline under light tension to a stretcher slightly larger than the painting.
- 2) Place the crepeline stretcher on a sheet of silicone-release Mylar. Brush on one layer of adhesive with brushstrokes running in a single direction. Wait 5 minutes and brush a second layer of adhesive in the perpendicular direction to the first layer. Allow to dry completely.
- 3) Place the thangka painting face down on a clean piece of silicone-release Mylar.
- 4) Reactivate adhesive with ethyl acetate using a wide brush on the side of the crepeline that is flush with the stretcher bars.
- 5) Immediately place the crepeline stretcher onto back of the thangka. Place a sheet of silicone-release Mylar on top of the crepeline and press with a flat hand or a roller, chasing air bubbles to the perimeter. Remove Mylar and allow to dry overnight.
- 6) When dry, if any areas remain unadhered, use a paint brush to apply a trace of ethyl acetate to those areas of crepeline. Press gently with a finger or a fine tool through a scrap of silicone-release Mylar to adhere. Allow to dry.
- 7) When fully and adhered, release the crepeline from the stretcher. Turn the painting over and trim excess crepeline carefully with a blade.

To see a short video of this project, visit
www.youtube.com/watch?v=kKNT7Qsb258

Or scan here

