THE CHARACTERIZATION OF HAND-COLOURED WOODCUTS USING REFLECTANCE TRANSFORMATION IMAGING (RTI)

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Fragments from Christ the Man of Sorrows, ca. 1500, woodcut. ©New York Public Library.

- Can RTI characterize the processes used to hand-colour woodcuts?
- Should RTI be included in documentation for conservation treatment of hand-coloured woodcuts?
Sample Preparation

- Carving the block
- Inking the block
- Printing
- Mixing the paint
- Hand-colouring
Samples

Brush-coloured  Stencil-coloured  Brush & stencil-coloured  Uncoloured control
RTI Analysis

Brush-coloured
Specular enhancement
Normals visualization

Stencil-coloured
Specular enhancement
Normals visualization
Preliminary Conclusions

- RTI may be useful for documentation purposes
- Avoid weighted flattening treatments for stencil-coloured woodcuts
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