

**VANESSA ANDREW M.A.**

**FINE ART CONSERVATOR**

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## **TREATMENT REPORT**

Owner:	Williamson Museum and art Gallery
Title:	Self portrait
Artist:	Philip Wilson Steer
Dimensions:	740mm x 593mm
Medium:	Oil
Support:	Canvas
Date of report:	March 2025

### **TREATING THE CANVAS DISTORTIONS:**

The draws in the canvas that could be seen towards the upper edge and extending down into the painting were resolved by replacing the missing tensioning keys.

The painting was then keyed out to give an even tension throughout and then the keys were tied in position.

### **SURFACE CLEANING:**

The painting had been in storage for many years and there was a considerable amount of surface dirt over the painting obscuring the image.

The surface dirt was removed with Tri-ammonium Citrate 3% in deionized water.

### **VARNISH REMOVAL:**

The varnish layer had discoloured and yellowed considerably. The varnish layer was removed with Acetone applied through Stoddard's Solvent.

### **CONSOLIDATION OF THE PAINT LAYER:**

There were several areas of slightly raised cracks towards the lower half of the painting. The slightly lifting paint layer was consolidated with Lascaux 498HV adhesive. It was applied with a fine paint brush. A piece of Ektolene tissue was placed over the area and then a heated spatula was used to apply a small amount of heat and pressure to the area.

### **FILLING RETOUCHING AND VARNISHING:**

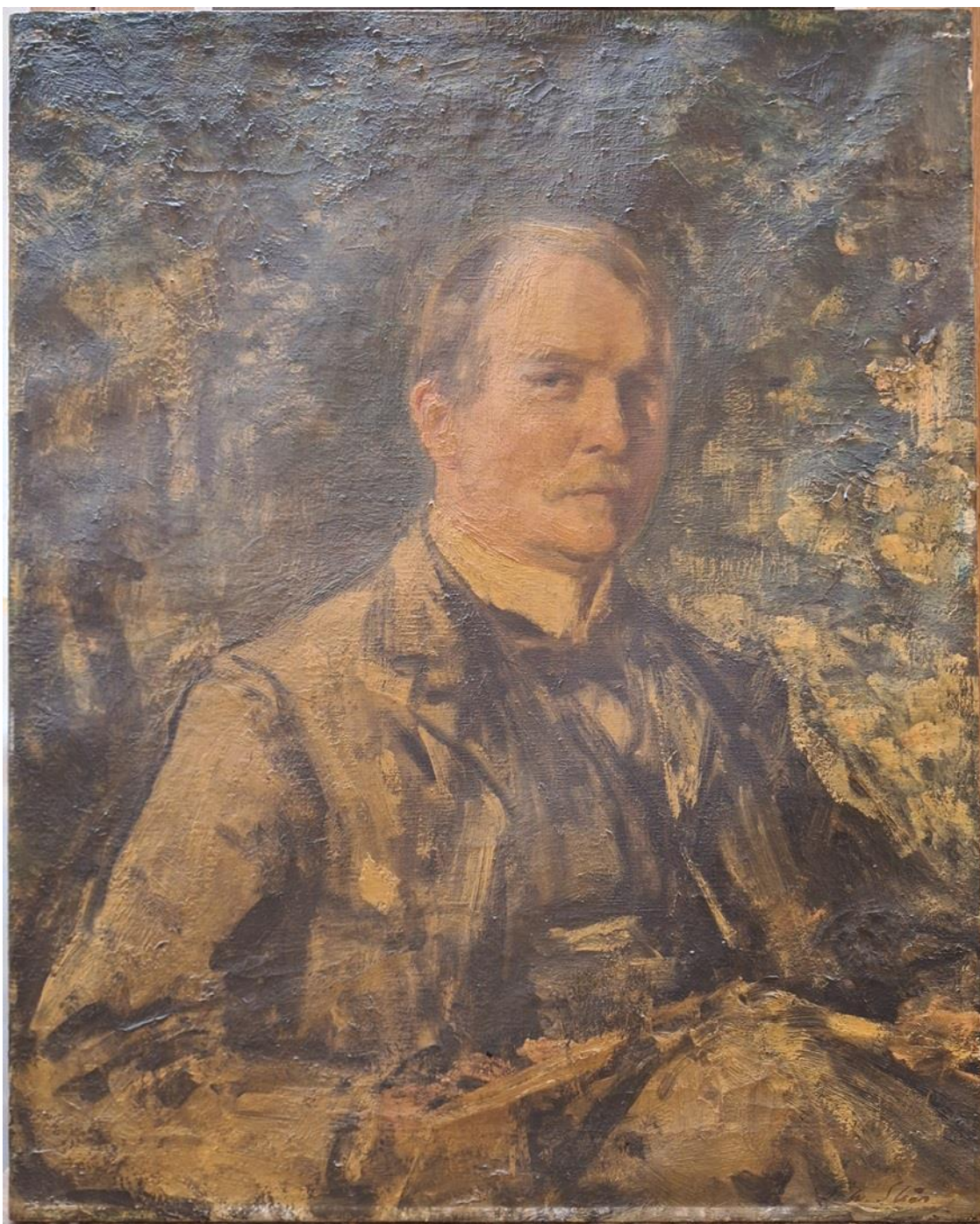
There were only a few minor losses at the edge of the painting and in the upper right corner.

The losses were filled with Mowiol G4-88 and chalk whiting and scraped down when dry.

The painting was given a brush coat of Paraloid B72 varnish (10% in Xylene).

Retouching was carried out with dry pigments dispersed in Paraloid B72 (20% in Xylene). After retouching the painting was given a brush coat of MS2A.

## PHOTOGRAPHS



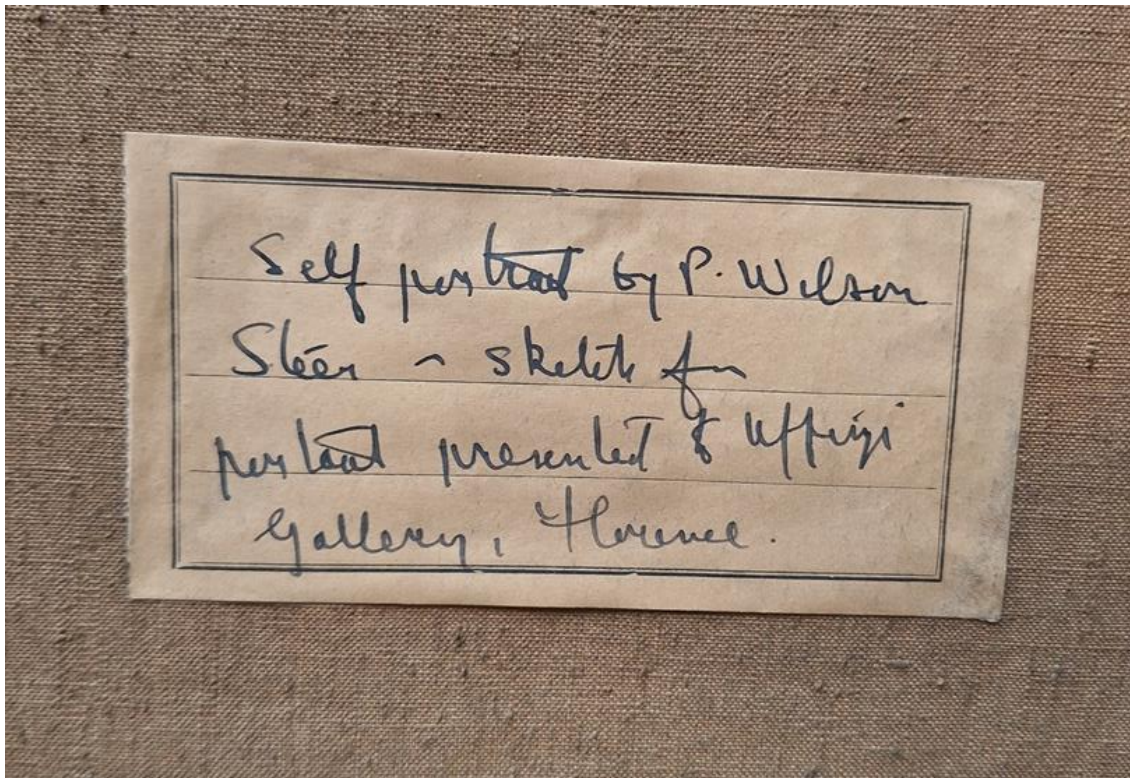
Front of the painting before treatment showing the discoloured appearance and distortions in the canvas towards the upper edge.



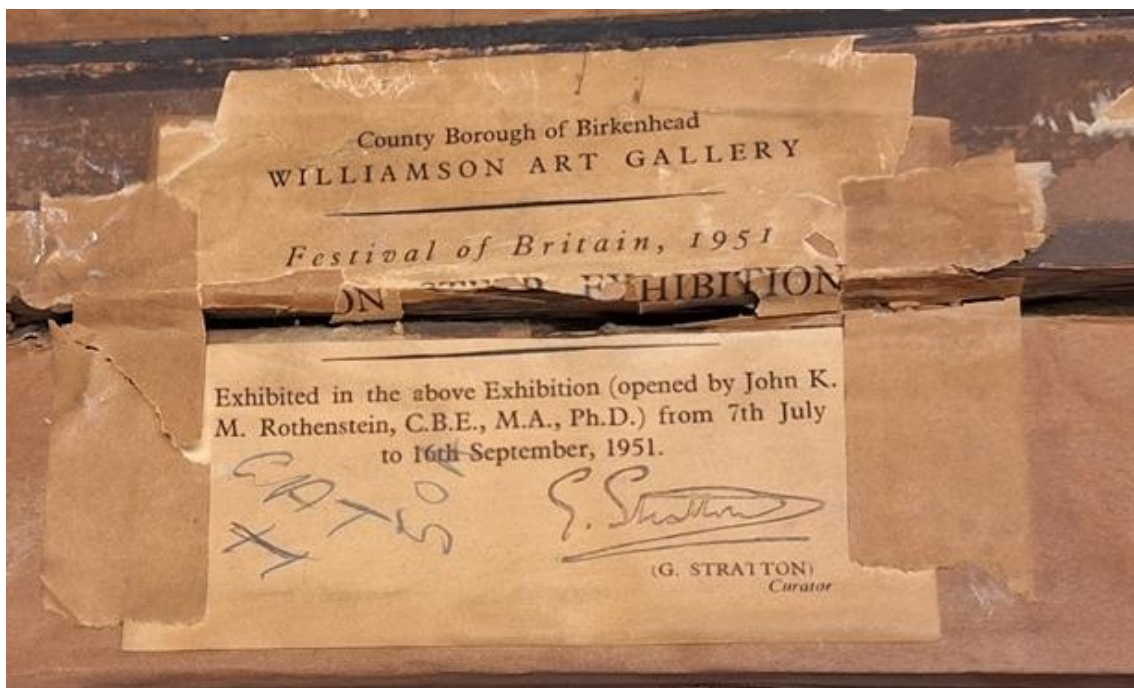
Reverse side of the painting before treatment showing the missing tensioning keys.



Detail of the canvas stamp.



Detail of the label on the reverse side of the canvas.



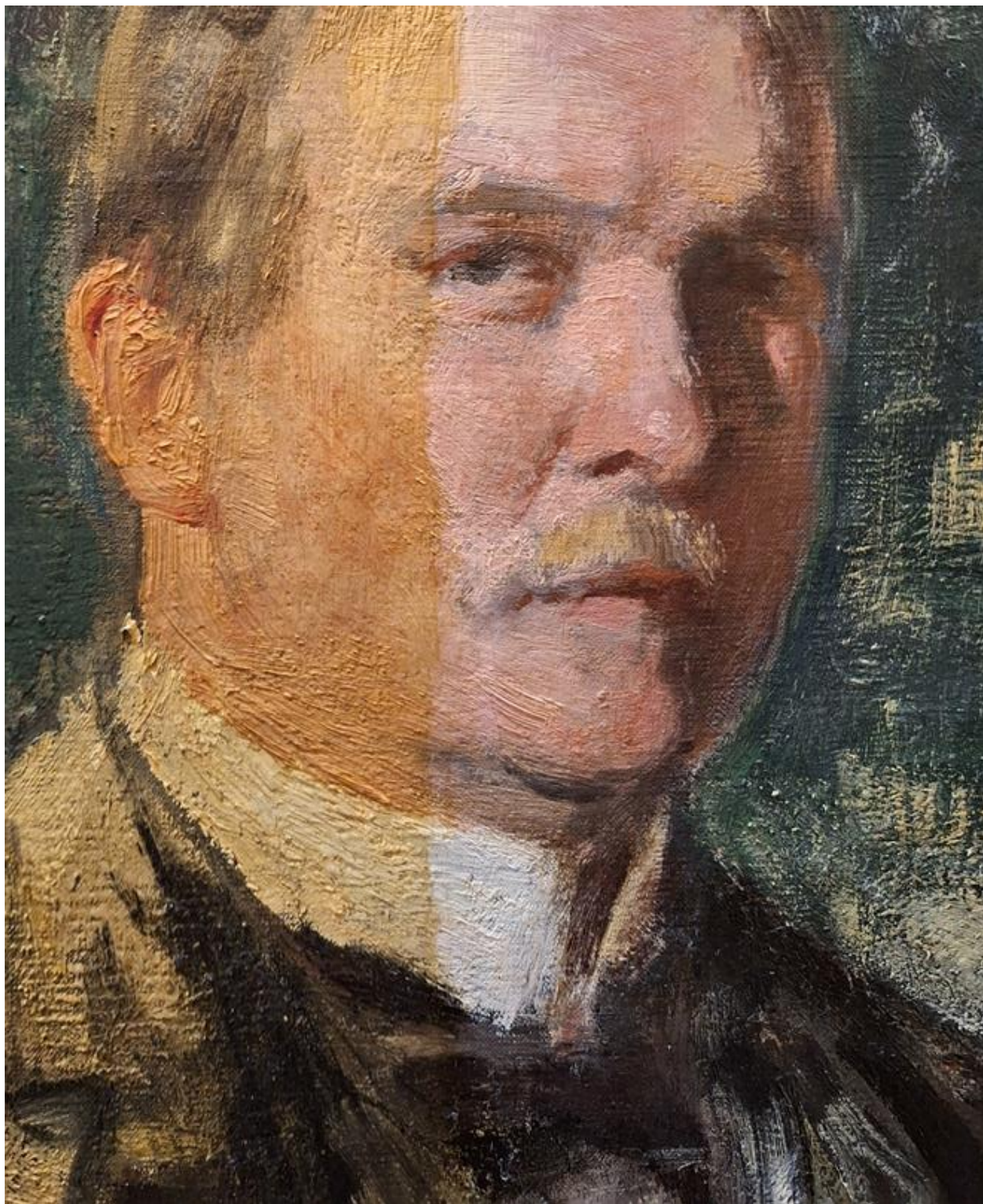
Label on reverse of stretcher and frame before removal of painting from the frame.



Front, during the removal of the surface dirt.



Front, during the removal of the varnish layer.



Detail of varnish removal from the face.