

PAINTING CONSERVATION

Colin Post 43 Wild Cherry Road Asheville, North Carolina 28804

CONDITION REPORT

September 2020

A. IDENTIFICATION/DESCRIPTION OF OBJECT

Owner:

Object: Oil on cotton duck canvas.

Title: *Birds at Sea*

Artist: Signed lower left, Milton Avery.

Date: Dated lower left, 57'.

Dimensions: 56 x 42 inches

Support: Pre-primed cotton duck canvas.

Ground: White lead.

Paint layer: Oil.

Surface layer: None

Supplemental support: Four-member stretcher which is original to painting.

B. CONDITION

Superficial: No testing carried out. Painting appears to have little to no grime. Most likely any grime (dust) found on superficial level is loosely attached.

Surface layer: None present

Paint layer: Paint layer is in good condition with only minimal retouch present. There is a crackle and cupping condition which is thought to be only aesthetic as opposed to structural. The degree of planar deformation associated with this condition is slight to moderate. It is most prominent in the lower half of painting where the paint application is thicker. This is somewhat typical of paintings that are done on cotton duck as a cotton support has the tendency to respond to its environment by expanding and contracting more than other types of canvas. This condition is not found to be obtrusive. Condition is treatable if it deteriorates further.

Ground layer: Good condition but with crackle and cupping present.

Support: Canvas is in good condition and exhibits good strength. As mentioned above there is a planar deformation associated with crackle and cupping which extends to support. It is unclear what has caused staining on back of canvas but it is believed not be associated with any previous treatment. This staining does not correspond with any specific color patterns on front of painting. Staining not believed to be a problem for painting as areas appeared stable.

Supplemental support: Good condition.. Keys have been held in place to prevent their loss. Likely that there is some degree of bowing of vertical bars as there is no cross-bar present. No manifestation of bowing is present in the form of a slack or deformed canvas.