



Morning View of Westminster Bridge

Nineteenth Century, oil on canvas

This oil painting, depicting a calm and clear morning by the side of Westminster Bridge, dates from the nineteenth century. It had lost its brilliance; the varnish had yellowed and dark over painting obscured the buildings and boat on the left side of the composition.

As the varnish was removed from the paint surface the reason for the overpainting on the left hand side became apparent. At some time in the past the paint depicting the sail boat had been damaged, something which had been overcome by putting the left hand side of the painting in shadow. To maintain the tonal balance across the painting, this operation had also necessitated darkening the foreground.

Removal of the old discoloured varnish and replacement with a new conservation grade varnish regained clarity and depth in the composition, in particular the buildings of Westminster lost their dowdy appearance. Overall this painting has a quiet captivating and contemplative quality.

