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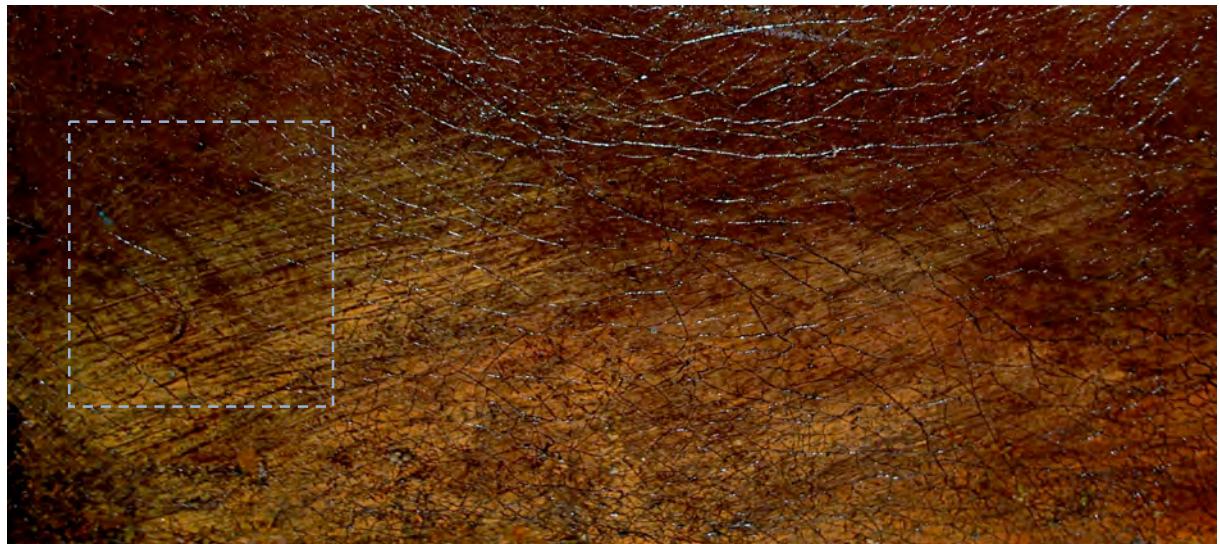
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THE REVEALED MONOGRAM OH

PARIS, March 31st, 2011

OZIAS HUMPHRY (1742-1810), *PORTRAIT OF JANE AUSTEN*

Huile sur toile 140,5 x 90,7 cm



OZIAS HUMPHRY (1742-1810),
PORTRAIT OF JANE AUSTEN AS A YOUNG GIRL
Discovery of the monogram OH

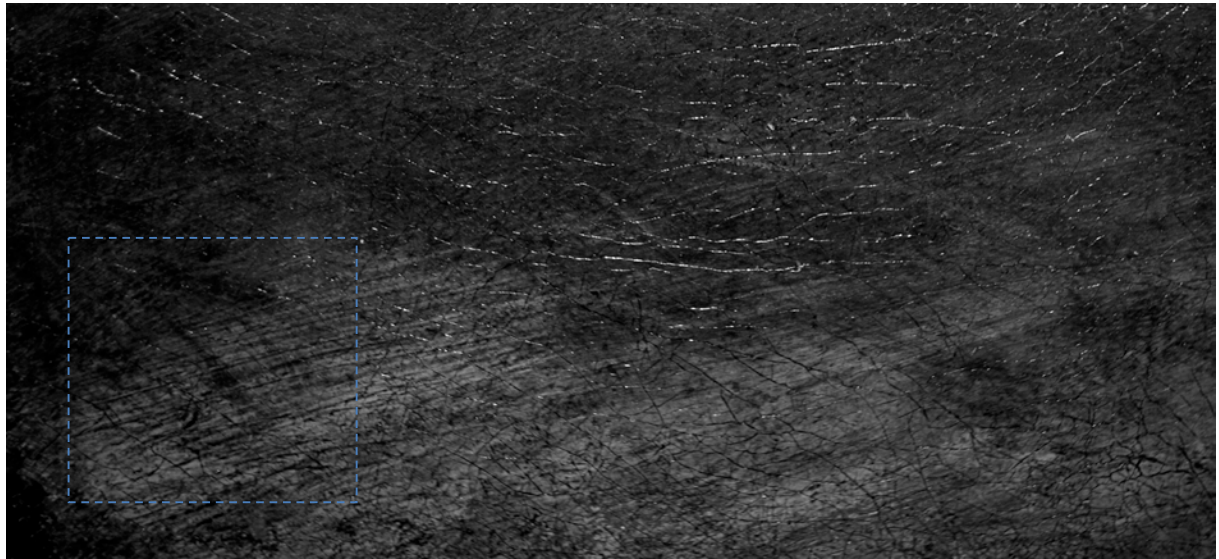
Photo: Eva Schwan, 2011

Undoubtedly, one of the most significant discoveries of our cleaning has been the revealing of Ozias Humphry's monogram OH in the left corner of the painting. Although damaged by harsh cleaning and other traumatising interventions in the past, the initials are clearly visible.

The monogram OH has a diameter of 3cm and is located in the lower left angle of the painting, at 2cm from the left edge and 2.5cm from the lower edge.

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OZIAS HUMPHRY (1742-1810),
PORTRAIT OF JANE AUSTEN AS A YOUNG GIRL
Detail of the monogram OH, after intervention



Due to extensive cleaning, signatures are often very damaged, fragmented or even missing.

This could have been easily the case as to the painting of Jane Austen, considering the number of quite traumatising interventions since its creation.

However, we consider ourselves very fortunate having uncovered and revealed some fragments of the monogram.

Linking the visible fragments may allow us to reconstitute the monogram without any difficulty.

Photos: Eva Schwan, 2011

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It seems interesting to note the inclination of the letter H. A similar inclination can be observed in other works of Ozias Humphry such as shown in the portrait of John Mealing (d.1769).



Ozias Humphry, John Mealing (d.1769) 1765-6
Purchased by George III and still in the Queens' Collection

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A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Eva Schwan'.