

# Investigation of Materials and

## *Flight Stop*

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### Introduction

*Flight Stop* is a sculptural installation by artist Michael Snow located at the Eaton Centre in Toronto. The installation is composed of life-sized sculptures of geese that have deteriorated over time. This degradation includes delamination, blanching, and chalking of the surface layers of the geese. The installation was recently treated by Toronto Art Restoration, Inc. (TARI). Using samples taken from sculptures of the installation displaying various levels of degradation, this research determined the structure and materials of the layers and identified likely reasons for degradation thus providing knowledge for future treatment of this and other similar objects.

### Experimental

Three geese from *Flight Stop* were chosen as representative samples of the sculptural installation. Samples were removed with scalpels from goose 6A, 11A, and 26B, as marked by conservators in the treatment process. Three samples were taken from each of the geese for a total of nine samples.

**Table 1. Description of Samples Taken From *Flight Stop***

#### Investigative Techniques

Infrared spectroscopy: Nicolet iS5 spectrometer, iD7 attenuated total reflectance (ATR) attachment.

Cross section analysis: Leica DM750P microscope, Leica ICC50 camera; Olympus BX51 fluorescence microscope, Olympus DP72 Camera.

### Conclusions

Layer structure of each goose is composed of an epoxy resin coating, photographic layers, and adhesives on top of the fiberglass base. Visible degradation of samples is mainly noted in the epoxy resin layer. Delamination and powdering likely related to light and heat aging. Greater degradation noted in geese which are located closer to the glass ceiling in the installation could be due to environmental effects or