

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Chemistry Department



Seminar:

Dr. Patricia Lang

Ball State University

Monday, November 9th

4:00-5:00 pm

Science Complex 158

“The Infrared Spectroscopic Analysis of Paints Removed from Medieval Art”

When looking at a historic work of art, does the word *chemistry* come to mind?

Art historians rely on science for accurate historical information regarding works of art. According to J. Davy in *The Collected Works of Sir Humphrey Davy*, the marriage of science and art dates back to 1818, when Sir Humphrey Davy chemically analyzed paints removed from the ancient ruins of Pompeii. We report on the spectroscopic study of paints and art materials removed from several pieces of medieval art that include illuminated manuscripts, and painted sculptures, both limestone and wood.