

SALVADOR MUÑOZ VIÑAS

The Pleural System. An Innovative Approach to Flattening and Lining Large Paper Sheets

Abstract

A new system for the flattening and lining of paper sheets is presented in this communication. The 'pleural system' uses vacuum to produce pressure upon a paper sheet, with a non-porous layer to cover the sheet that nonetheless allows for the flow of air, as a pressure gradient is created between the base and the cover. Hence, wet sheets can dry *while held under pressure*; air actually circulates between the base and the sealed plastic cover – the system's name is derived from this fact. In so doing, and as a result of its technical features, the system overcomes many of the problems inherent in other techniques and offers a number of relevant advantages for the conservator. These are especially important when it comes to work on medium- and large-sized artefacts, such as maps, posters or oversized prints.