

## Description of ongoing masters thesis on Gel Cleaning of Plastics & Rubbers

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The aim of this thesis is to investigate the suitability of gel cleaning on porous and water-sensitive plastics and natural rubber latex. In addition to an in-depth description on the theory of gels, practical gel tests, including novel hydrogels, will be applied on sample material to demonstrate the varied applicability. By looking at the condition of specific artworks, individual gelled systems will be investigated and evaluated through different methods of analysis and if considered appropriate, applied to the artwork. To illustrate the complexity of cleaning modern materials, patina in contemporary art is discussed. Patina in relation to the specific artworks, taking aspects of artists' intent and ephemerality into account, will be considered.