



# ABOUT AUTHENTICATING THROUGH FINGERPRINTS

There are three steps to using fingerprints for authentication:

## 1 DISCOVERY

You must find fingerprints impressed in the paint. These are 3-dimensional prints of the fingerprint ridges. They are called "Plastic fingerprints". When the paint hardened the fingerprints were preserved and they will survive as long as the paint itself.

To find these prints, you lay the painting flat on a table and you examine it square inch by square inch using a flash light and a raking light angle.

When you locate a fingerprint you photograph it using a macro lens and a tripod for the camera to be perfectly steady. Police departments use a resolution of 500 pixels per inch. This results in crisp and sharp photos that can be enlarged without becoming blurry.

You can look for and photograph fingerprints yourself or we can do it if it is more convenient for you.

## 2 LOCATING FINGERPRINTS OF THE ARTIST

This is the difficult part. Fingerprinting people didn't start until 1902 in the US and around the same time in Europe and elsewhere.

It means that the fingerprints of most artists active before 1900 were not recorded and are therefore not available.

For artists active after 1900 obtaining their fingerprint records can be from difficult to impossible. It depends on where the records are kept.

## 3 MATCHING FINGERPRINTS

Once we have both photos of the fingerprints on the painting and recorded fingerprints of the artist, a fingerprints examiner checks if they match and issues a report.

If you think your painting has retained fingerprints of the artist, let us know.