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Article: Conservation of Two Floris Neusüss Photograms

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## **Conservation of Two Floris Neusüss Photograms**

**Zach Long**

*Presented at the 2017 PMG Winter Meeting in Kansas City, Missouri.*

In preparation for the 2016 exhibition *A Matter of Memory: Photography as Object in the Digital Age*, two Floris Neusüss body photograms dating from 1965 were examined and treated by the conservation department of the George Eastman Museum. Acquired by the museum in 1969, the prints had been stored in pressure-fit frames since the conclusion of a travelling exhibition in 1971. The photographs, each nearly 7 x 3 ½ feet, were produced on Autokop, a translucent direct positive gelatin silver copy paper manufactured by Leonar-Werke, and were selectively developed by the artist. The treatment of these prints involved the removal of more than 450 inches of pressure-sensitive tape, stain reduction through extensive poulticing, localized surface cleaning, mending, loss compensation, and mounting. Through communication with the artist and examination of early exhibition documentation, the museum learned that one of the prints had undergone considerable silver image deterioration, manifested as pink discoloration, and had been trimmed several inches prior to framing. The acceptability of a marked change from an artwork's original appearance was discussed, along with the practical restraints of preparing oversized works with major condition issues on an exhibition schedule.

**Zach Long**

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