

### **Evaluation of usability of Gamboge for paintings and interior decoration**

Gamboges is a brilliant yellow coloured organic pigment that had been widely used in the Kandyan period mural paintings. It is the hardened latex objective of improving the quality of the pigment in order to promote its contemporary usage. It needs the determination of the quality, performance and survival pattern of gamboges paint, mechanisms of its decay and selection and testing of improved preparation methods of the paint.

The chemical composition of gamboges latex was studied. The tests used for the preliminary detection of the pigment in sites and confirmatory tests done in the laboratory are discussed. The traditional method of preparation of the paint was investigated. The survival patterns of the paint were studied in respective sites with a thorough investigation of problems present and the possible causes of them. The performance of paint in each site was determined.

The causes of deterioration of the pigment were analyzed and relevant methods for the improvement of the quality of the pigment were investigated. Particular attention was given to the enhancement of the paint with contemporary technology. Its applicability for modern painting and interior decoration is discussed giving particular attention to the preparation of the paint and relevant internal conditions for the survival of the paint. The feasibility of using the water-soluble portion of the latex as a dye is also studied. Detailed studies have been done to use the dye to colour porous building material.