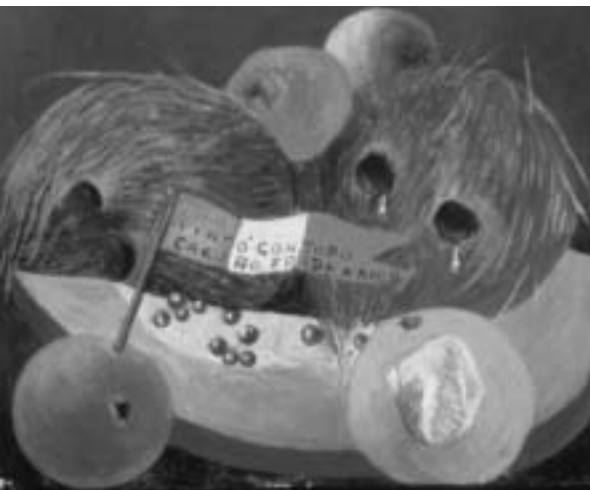


THE ARTCARE™ ADVANTAGE: PROFILES IN CONSERVATION



THE CLIENT PROFILE

When the Los Angeles County Museum of Art acquired the Lewin Collection, one of the largest and most important collections of 20th century Mexican art, it realized that a great deal of work would have to go into the pieces before they could be put on display. The collection, which included works by Mexican masters such as Jose Clemente Orozco, Diego Rivera and Rufino, was in such a deteriorated condition, that the Museum faced a monumental challenge in conserving all 2,000 works.



"Weeping Coconuts", 1951 (above) by Frida Kahlo (Mexico, 1907-1954) and "Messenger in the Wind", 1931 (top right) by Rufino (Mexico, 1899-1991), are both preserved with Artcare at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, in the "Mexican Masterpieces from the Bernard and Edith Lewin Collection."

Artcare Saves

Multi-Million Dollar Collection at LA County Museum of Art



THE CONSERVATION CHALLENGE

"Many of these pieces exhibited severe acid-burn and advanced deterioration caused by inherent vice in the artwork and aging of poor quality framing materials," says Victoria Blyth-Hill, senior paper conservator and acting head of conservation at the museum. "In some cases, this was due to the lack of knowledge and availability of preservation-quality framing material from the 1930s into the 1970s."

THE PROCESS AND SOLUTION

With millions of dollars in art at stake, the museum's paper conservators and curators quickly devised a strategy to preserve these works. Their first step was to carefully remove each piece from its old frame, then slide the art into a protective folder made of 1-ply Alphasag Artcare conservation material. The museum was already familiar with Artcare and its patented MicroChamber® technology, and regularly used this technology in its extensive conservation efforts. By doing so they would protect the artwork from harmful pollutants, paper degradation and acid by-products of the art's own aging. Museum curators created more than 2,000 custom-sized Artcare folders — one for each piece in the collection.

THE SUCCESS OF ARTCARE

At present, each piece of artwork in the Lewin Collection is housed in the protective Artcare folder and will remain so until it undergoes further conservation treatment, and whenever it is not on display. According to Jill Martinez, the museum's curatorial assistant of modern and contemporary art, "The Artcare products have greatly enhanced important conservation and storage efforts for the Lewin Collection." The artwork from this collection is rotated regularly in the museum's Permanent Collection galleries. An installation is planned for the fall of 2000.

The Artcare™ Archival System
The art of protecting your art.

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www.artcare.com

MATERIALS USED

Alphasag® Artcare™ 1 ply 100% cotton rag barrier paper as protective storage folders.

Original frames re-used for presentation.

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BLAACH