HOLDEN CONSERVATION LTD



St Michael overcoming Satan, UCL

Conservation Treatment Report

prepared for

University College Art Museum

September 2012

Condition of sculpture after re-installation

Once the sculpture had been re-installed on the glass plinth and the bronze ring fitted around it's base the sculpture was examined with the curator of UCL Art Museum, to determine if any further work needed to be done on the sculpture.

The three thin sections of painted plaster that had flaked off St Michael's buttock during the re-installation would need to be re-adhered.

A loose section of the base by Satan's right hand would be re-adhered.

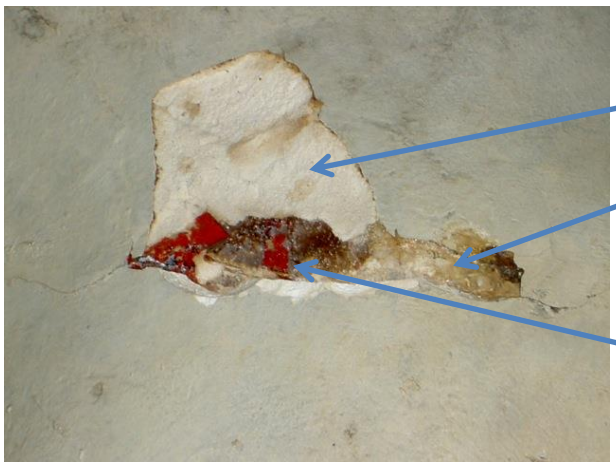
Two previously missing sections from the base edge would be filled in order to protect the break edge from any further loss.

Two small areas where the white of the plaster was visible would be re-touched.



0393

Photo showing the area where the painted plaster 'skin' flaked off during re-installation.



0391

Detailed photo of the area of loss.

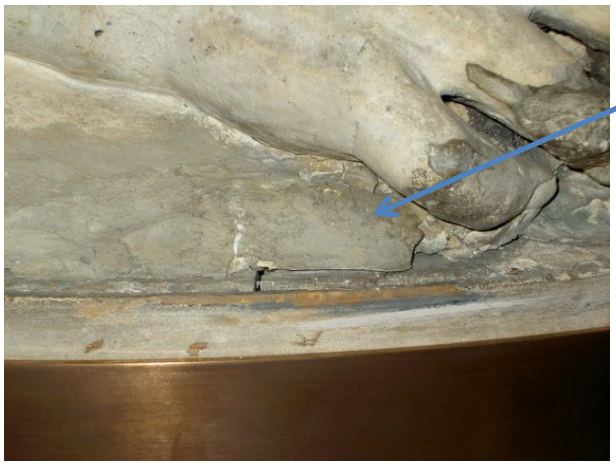
The slightly darker fill used along the joint line, across the buttocks, can be seen.

Traces of red paint can be seen on top of the plaster but beneath the present paint layer.



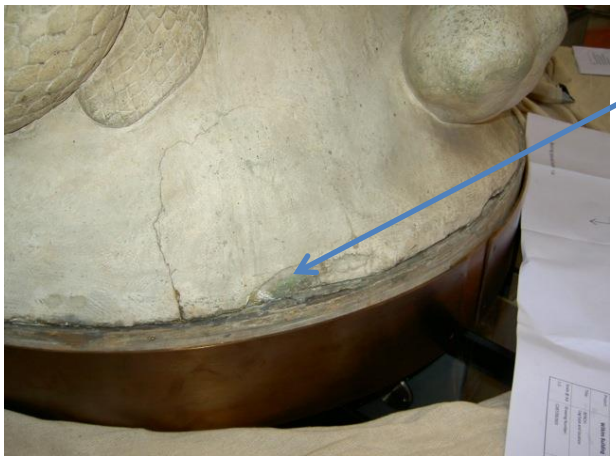
0402

Photo showing the location of the loose section of the plaster base.



0404

Detailed photo of the loose section of the plaster base.



0395

Photo showing the location of the previously missing section of the plaster base.



0394

Detailed photo of the previously missing section of the plaster base.



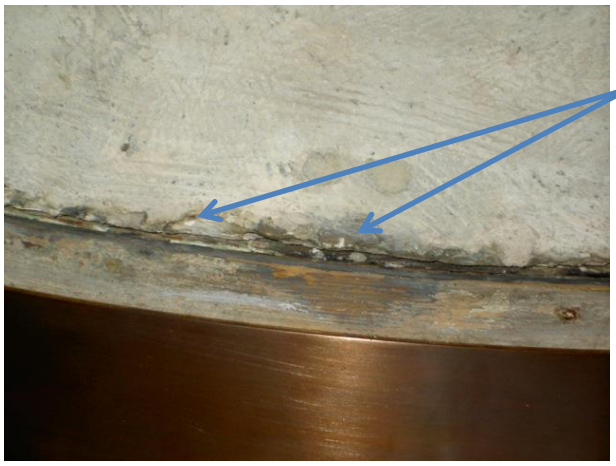
0397

Photo showing the location of the previously missing section of plaster base.



0398

Detailed photo of the previously missing section of the plaster base.



0405

Photo showing the two small areas where the white of the plaster was visible.

Conservation Treatment

All the areas to be treated were sealed with an application of a 5% solution of Paraloid B72 acrylic resin in Acetone and IMS (1:1).

The loose pieces of the sculpture were re-adhered with a 20% solution of Paraloid B72 acrylic resin in Acetone and IMS (1:1).

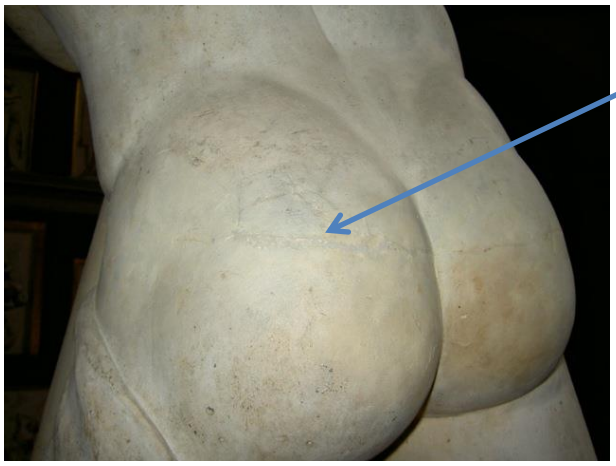
The missing sections of plaster and the joints were filled with an acrylic mortar of glass microballons and a 20% solution of Paraloid B72 acrylic resin in Acetone and IMS (1:1).

The acrylic mortar repairs were re-touched with acrylic paints to tone with the painted plaster.



0401

Photo showing the acrylic mortar repair around the re-adhered pieces of painted plaster.



0407

Photo showing St Michael's buttock once the acrylic mortar repair had been re-touched with acrylic paints.



0403

Photo showing the loose piece of plaster having been re-adhered and the joint filled with acrylic mortar.



0408

Photo showing the repair once the acrylic mortar joint had been re-touched with acrylic paints.



0399

Photo showing the acrylic mortar repair. Cotton wool swabs and Acetone were used to finish the surface to the fill to match the original plaster.



0409

Photo showing the repair, once it had been re-touched with acrylic paints to tone with the painted plaster.



0400

Photo showing the acrylic mortar repair. Cotton wool swabs and Acetone were used to finish the surface to the fill to match the original plaster.



0410

Photo showing the repair, once it had been re-touched with acrylic paints to tone with the painted plaster.