

Digital Fills for Loss Compensation

Instructions prepared by Sandrine Blais, August 2022.

Case study: William Hogarth, *The Sleeping Congregation State IV* (detail), 1762, engraving on paper. Agnes Etherington Art Center. Gift from the estate of Mabel E. Segsworth, through the Queen's University Art Foundation, 1944

The engraving had both upper corners missing, which were re-created using digital fills with the following method:

Preparing paper sample sheets

- Select a few different Japanese and Western papers of similar colours and weights (slightly thinner) than desired result
- Cut and tape the samples to letter-sized printer paper (8 1/2 x 11 inches) using painter's tape
- Take a second sheet of printer paper, place it on the first one and trace paper rectangles
- Measure height, width and distance from top left corner of the page in millimeters

Creating Photoshop sheet for the paper samples

- Create an empty photoshop document with 8 1/2 x 11 inches dimensions
- Add rectangle stencils to photoshop document to match the paper samples

Creating the fills on Photoshop

- Measure object and create a second Photoshop sheet with those measurements
- Import high quality RAW file of object's recto normal light photograph, fit to fill the entire document
- Select a section of the object representing the pattern lost
- Copy selection into a second layer above the object photo layer, move to fill the loss

Pasting the fills to the first Photoshop sheet

- Paste the fills to first prepared Photoshop sheet, keeping them away from the stencil's borders (where there would be painter's tape)
- Modify the fills with filters, contrast, brightness and hue (this part is trial and error)
- Export as pdf document

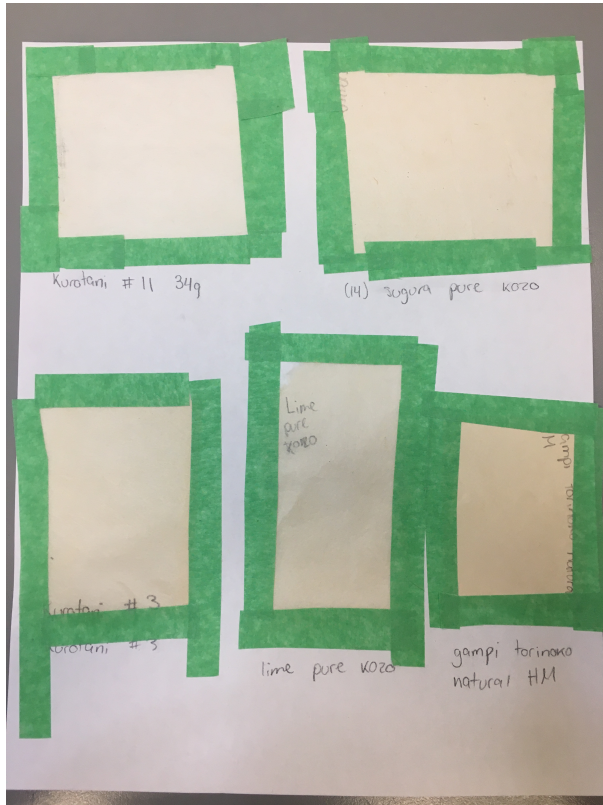
Print and adhere the fills

- Feed the prepared sample sheets into printer and print with lightfast and water-resistant pigment inks
- Select best color match, trace fill with sharpie on mylar, cut the fills to the right size

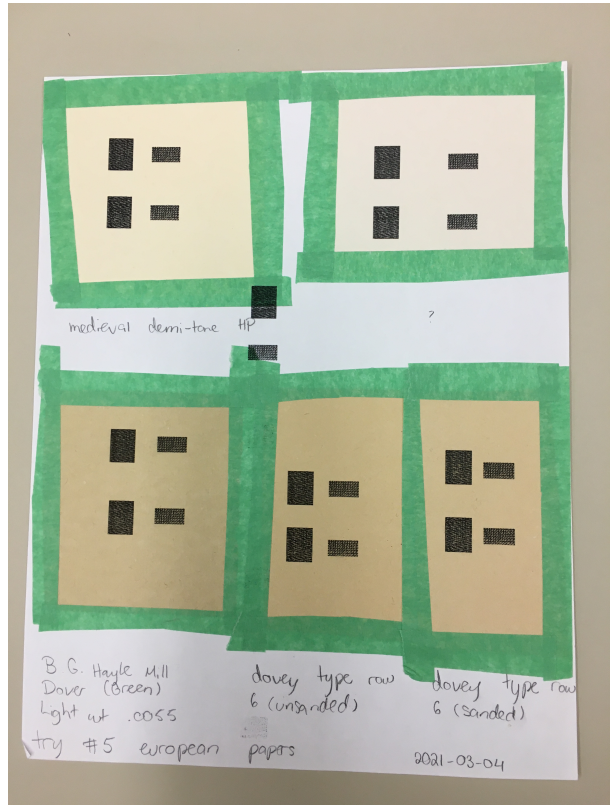
- Adhere thin Japanese paper on verso of fill and use that paper to adhere to object verso
- Inpaint the area connecting the print and digital fill

Photo gallery

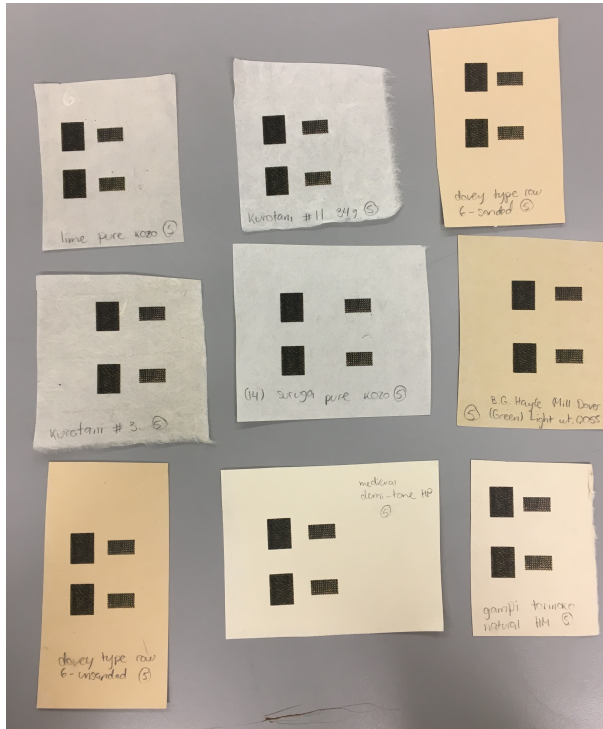
Japanese papers taped to printer paper, prior to printing



Japanese papers taped to printer paper, after printing



Options of digital fills printed on a variety of Japanese papers



Digital fills, printed, cut and adhered to additional Japanese paper



Before treatment image, detail upper left corner



After treatment image, detail upper left corner

