

**Newly discovered ceiling painting in the House of Estland's Nobility:
the story of its de- / remounting, conservation, dating and context**



BAROQUE CANVAS CEILINGS IN ESTONIA

SURVIVED 9 (5 in Tallinn)

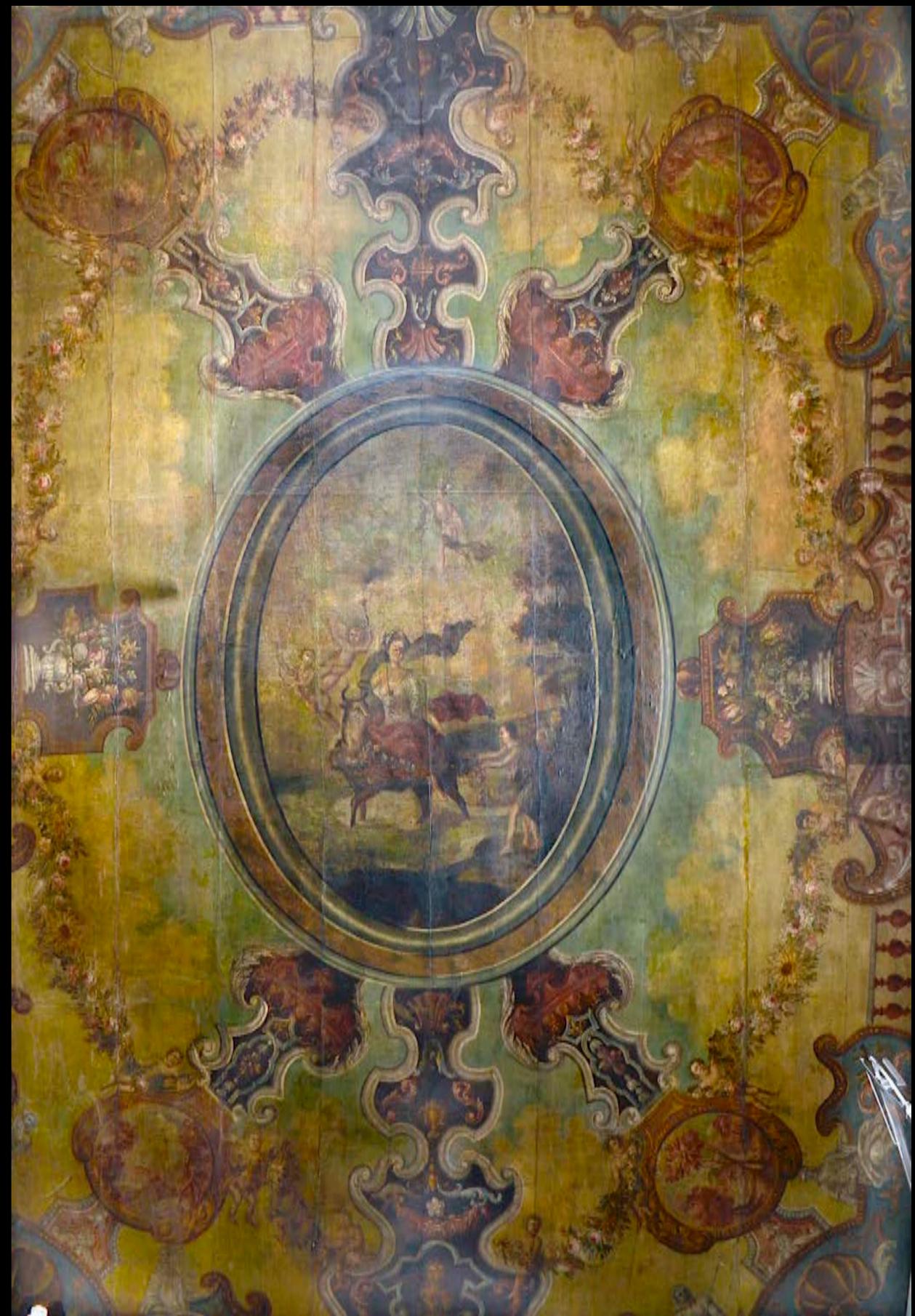
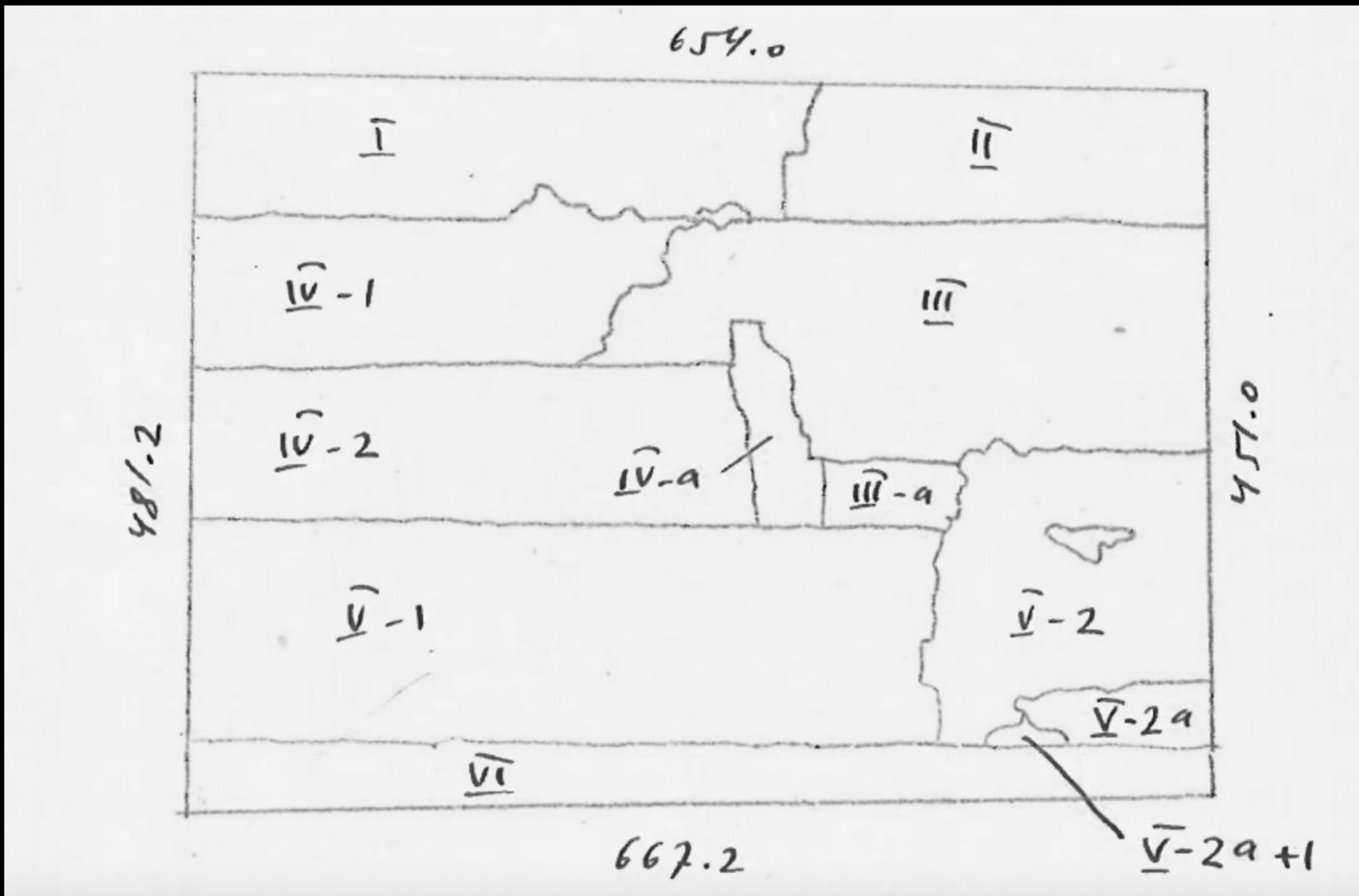
Prof Krista Kodres:

“...ceiling paintings with complicated compositions and narratives covering the entire ceiling were the most impressive means of decoration in the dwellings of Tallinners. From the standpoint of an interior’s “ability to speak”, ceiling pictures gave a room a theme that literally covered it.”.

Lai 29, (Restor)
"Europe rööv"
C 1720-1730s

4,5 x 6,7 (u 32 m²)

Avastati ja avati juba 1908 (krohvimati alt).
Restaureeriti 1949-50 / 1956 (Ilmar Ojalo)
Re-restaureeriti 1997 (Vana Tallinn)

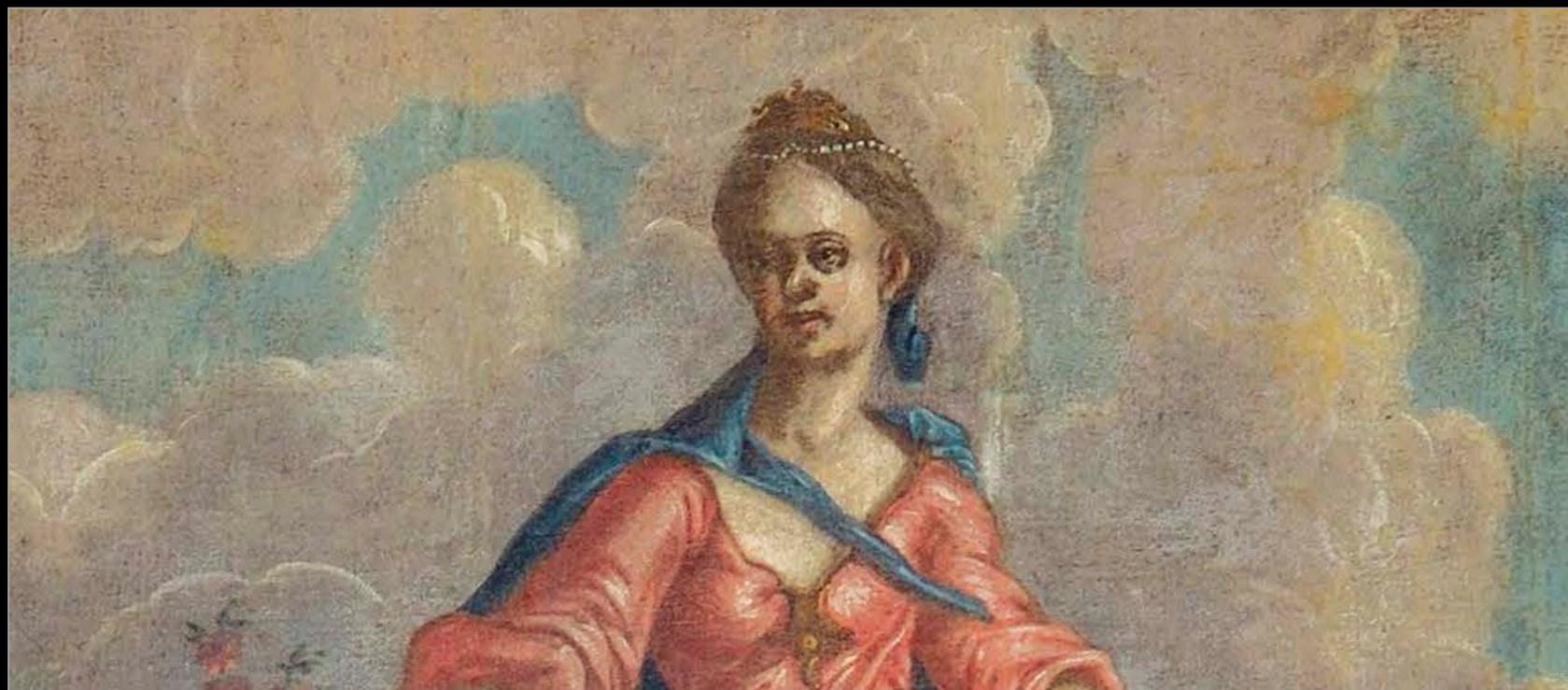


Raekoja plats 12, (TLPA direktori kabinet)
"Flora".

c 1750

3 x 4,2 (u 12,6 m2)

Restaureeriti I korda 1960ndatel (aruanne puudub)
Uuesti restaureeriti 1980ndate lõpus (KAR-Grupp ja
Helje Vernomasing)



Kuninga 6 (Kullo),
“Minerva”
end of 18th century

5,8 x 6,4 m, **(u 37 m²)**

Eemaldati laest Poola restauraatorite poolt 1979.
Hoiustati rullis 10 aastat.
1988-89. a konserveerimistöode I etapp.
1998-2000.a konserveerimistöode II etapp.

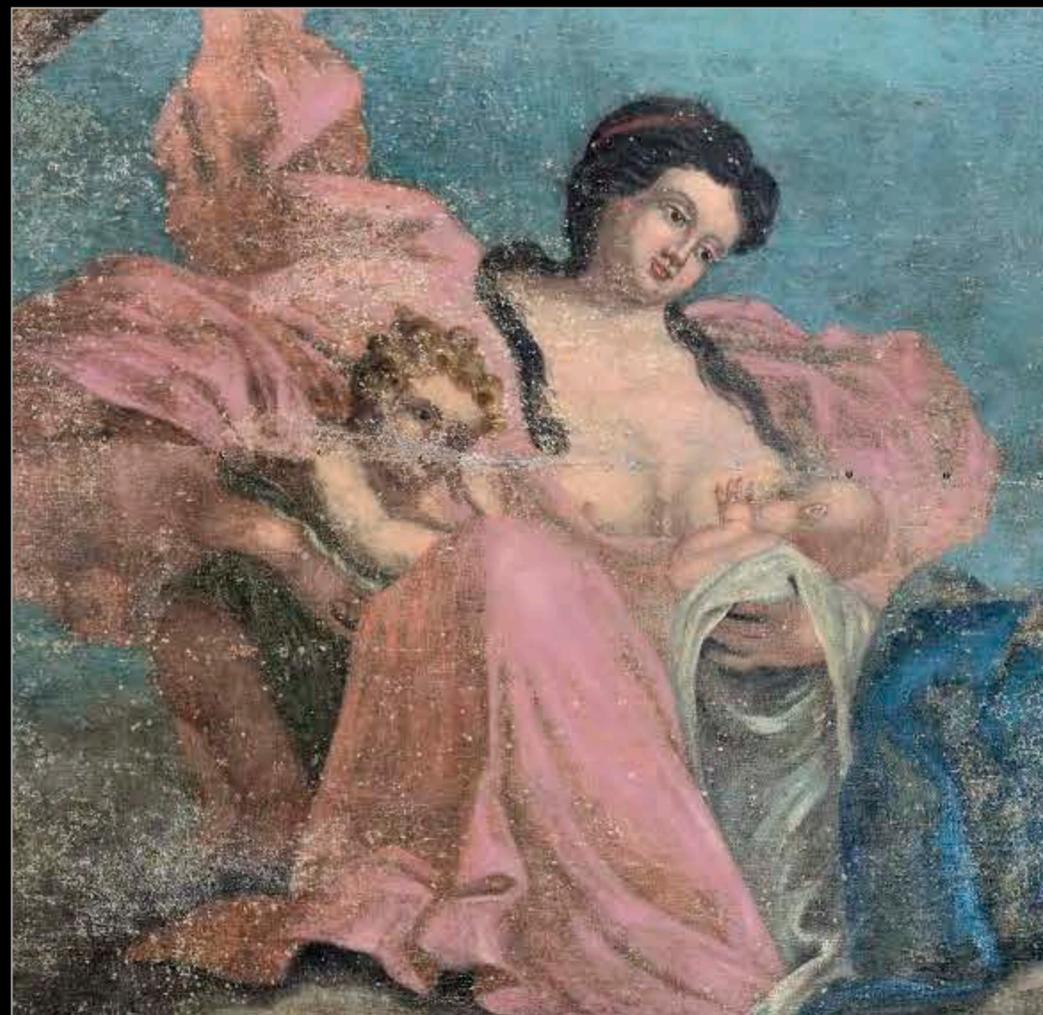


Pikk 53,
“Caritas and Fides”

c 1740-1790

7,3 x 4,8 (u 35 m²)

Leitud ja restaureeritud 1999-2001



Pikk 60 (now in Estonian History Museum)

mid 18th century

6,45 x 4 (u 26m²)

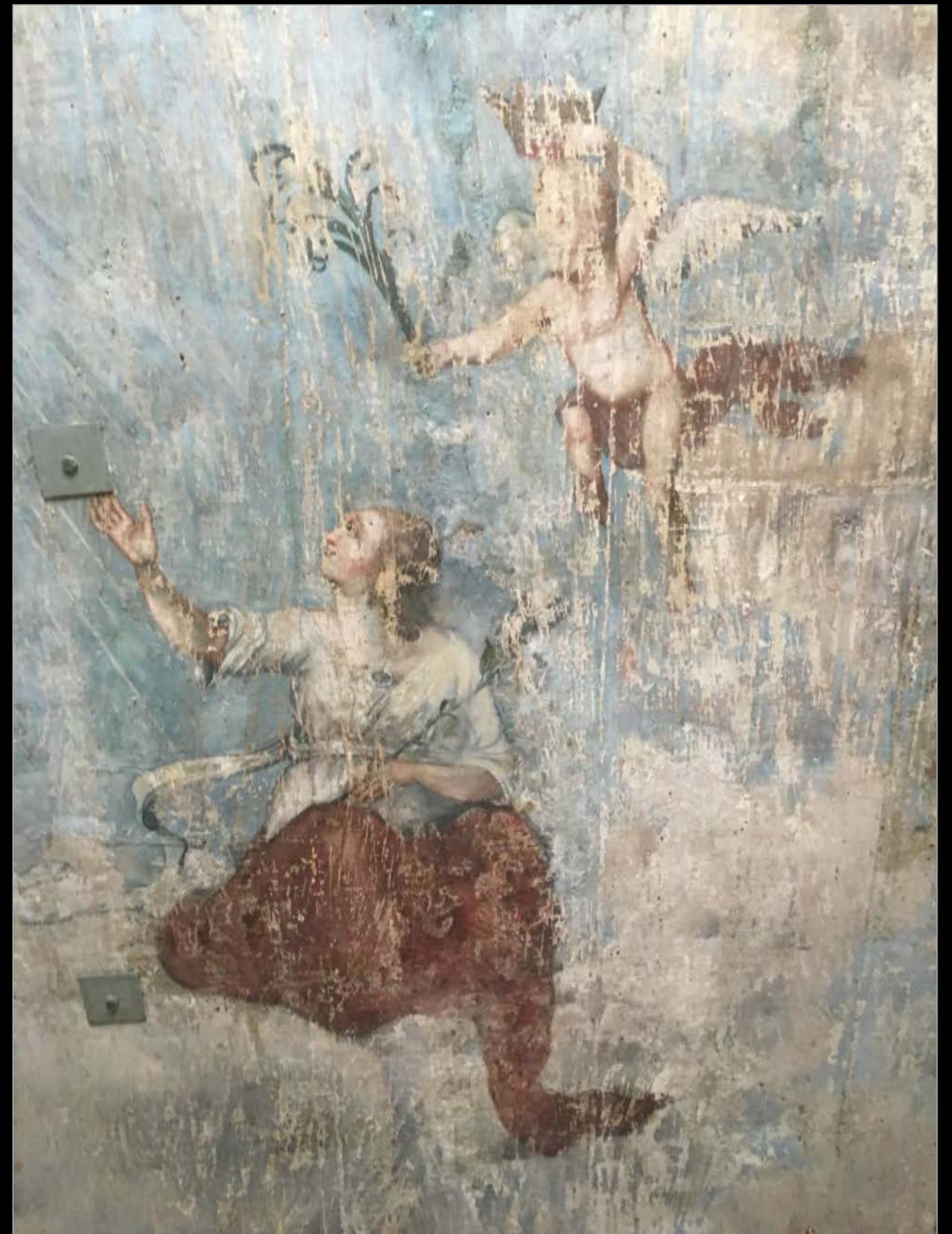
Leitud ja restaureeritud 1976



Albu manor

mid 18th century

Leitud ja restaureeritud 1998-1999

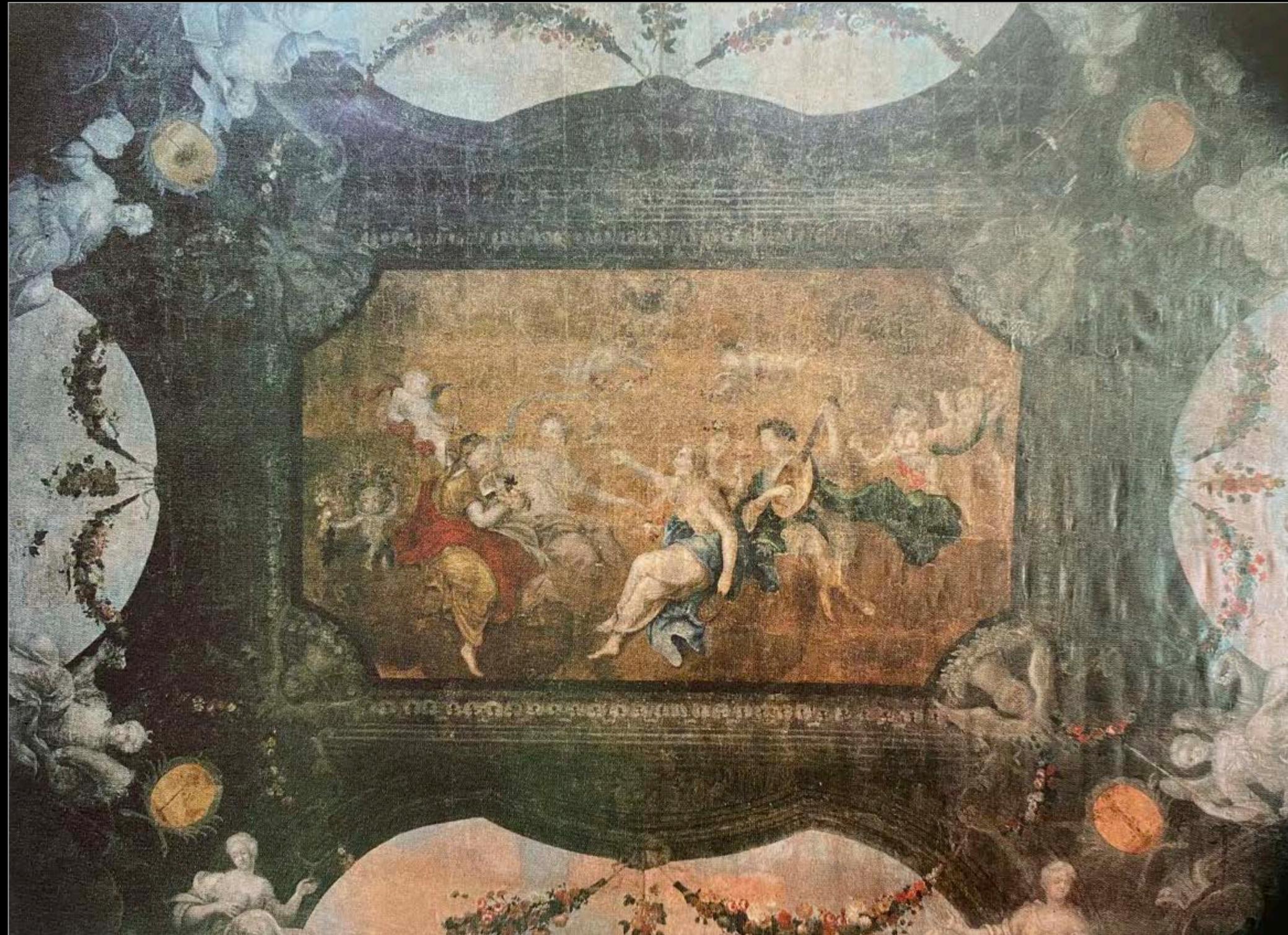


Kuressaare Town Hall end of 17th - beginning of 18th century

7,5 x 5,5 m, (u 40 m²)

*Eesti seni kõigi aegade suurim laemaal (5,5 x 7,5 m) leiti lõuendirullina Kuressaare linna ühest vanast majast (Pikk tn.) peale II Maailmasõda. Mõningate oletuste kohaselt oli laemaal Kuressaarde toodud **Narva** linnast. (allikas: <http://www.kultuurivara.ee/?pgid=122>, koostanud: Lii Pihl)*

Restaureeriti 1974-75, restauraatorid Erik Põld ja Jaan Kobin. Pärast restaureerimist oli 27 aastat restaureerituna Ajaloomuuseumis hoiul. Lakke paigaldati 2002 (Aet Maasik)



CANVAS PLAFONDS

TECHNIQUE

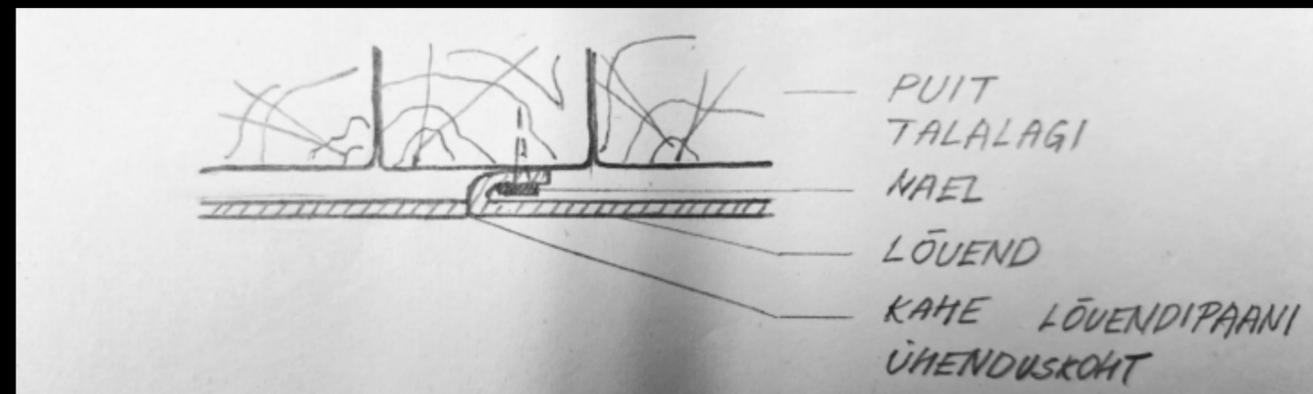
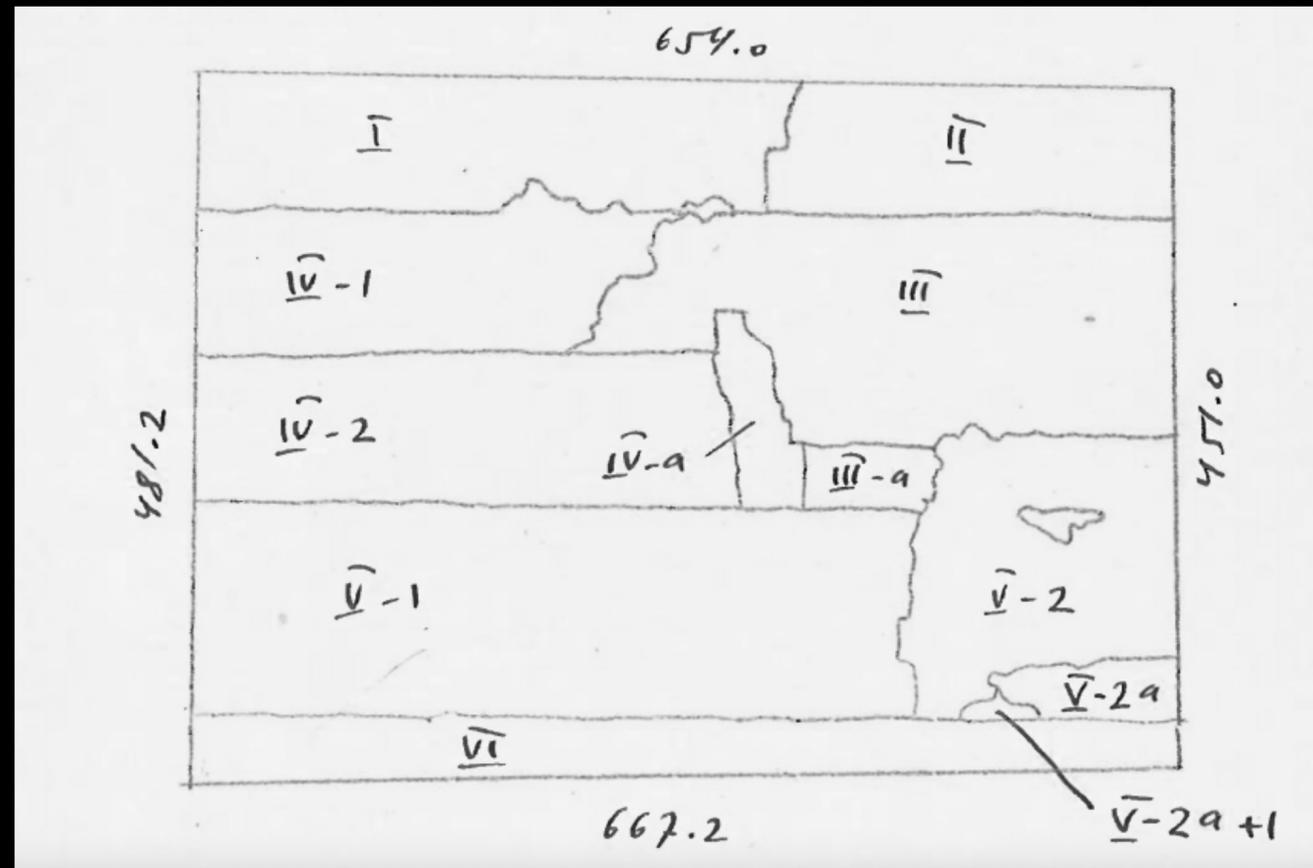


TECHNIQUE

Around **50-85 cm wide canvas strips** are fastened to the ceiling. Usually they are sewn together. But not always...

Thereafter, canvas is covered with glue and ground layer and **Painted directly on the ceiling**, artist looking straight up.

For painting, the **oil colours** are used, which are mixt *in situ* (i.e on the scaffolding). But not always....

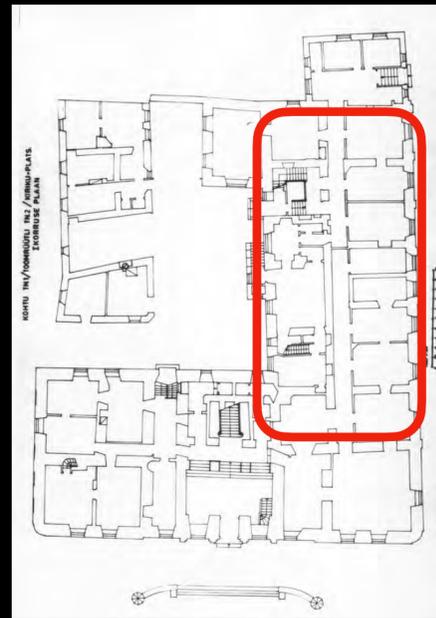


CANVAS PLAFONDS

Newly discovered ceiling painting in the House of Estland's Nobility in Tallinn:
the biggest plafond painting in Estonia



NOBILITY HOUSE

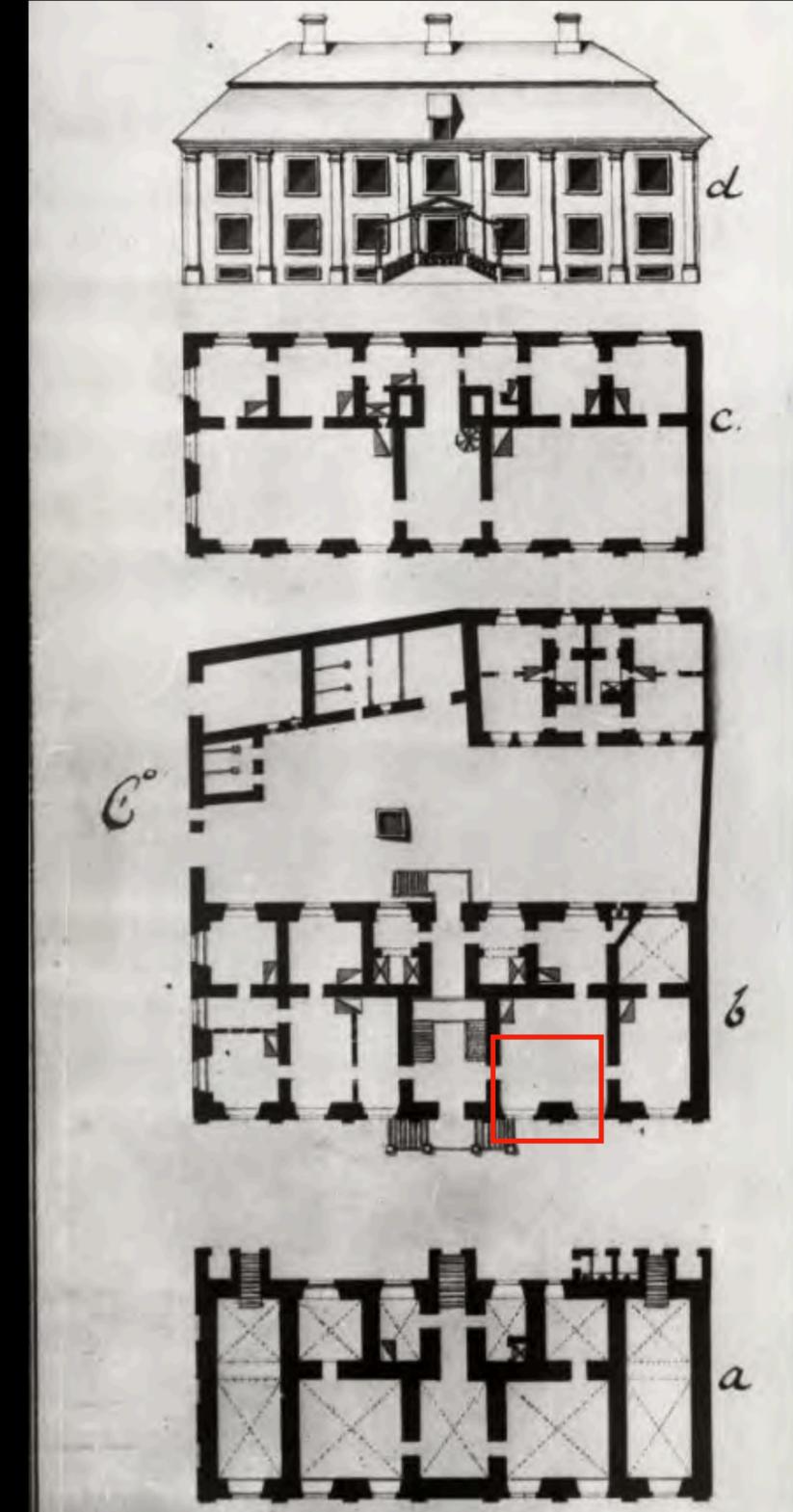


View from Tallinn Cathedral



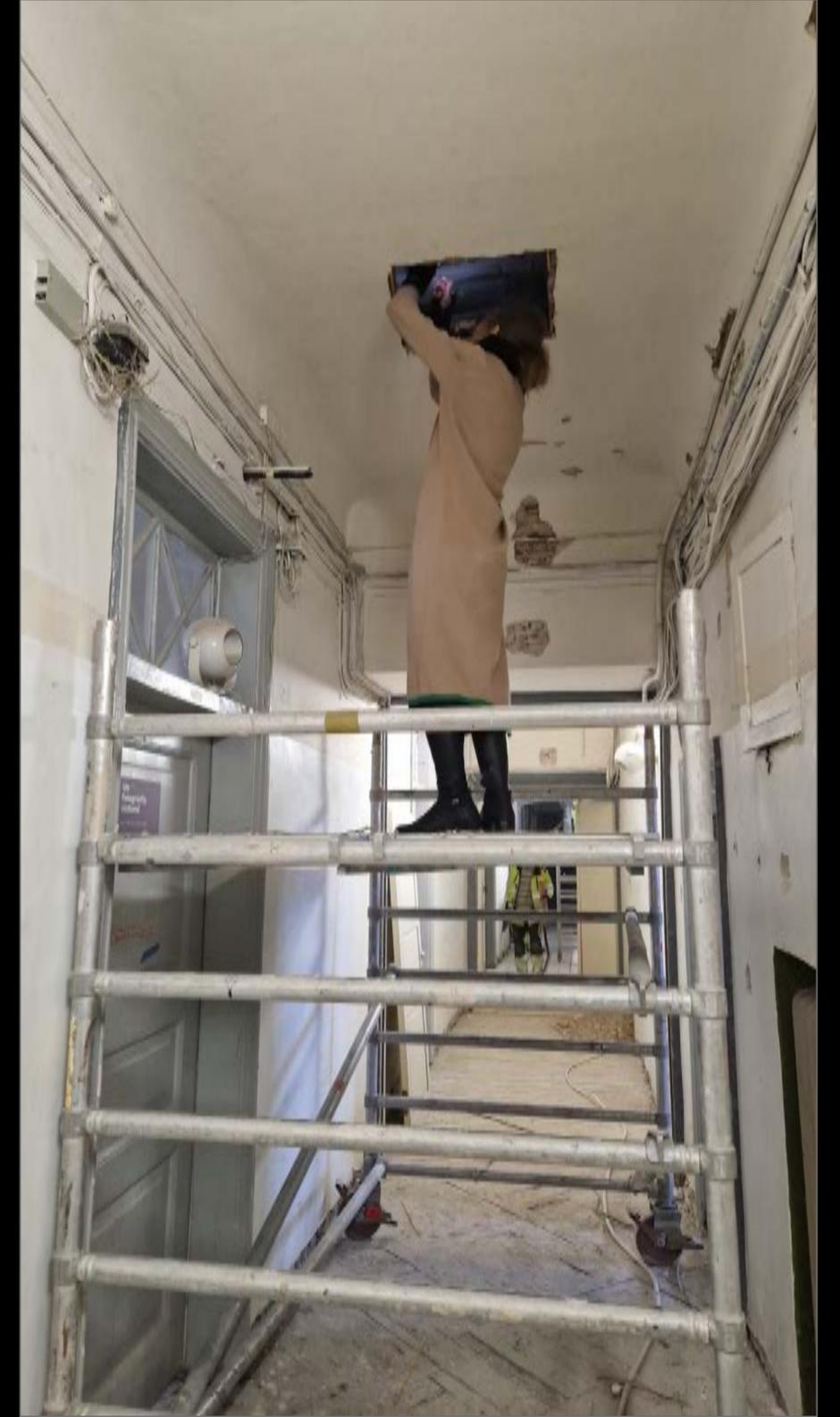
View from Kohtu street

Renderings: Urmas Lõoke



Drawing from 1803 depicting Tallinn's Cathedral and the House of the Nobility. On the left: a – the cellar storey of the House of the Nobility; b – the first storey; c – the second storey; d – the façade. The location of the canvas plafond is marked by a red square. Russian Central State Military Historical Archive, Moscow

FEBRUARY 2023: DISCOVERY





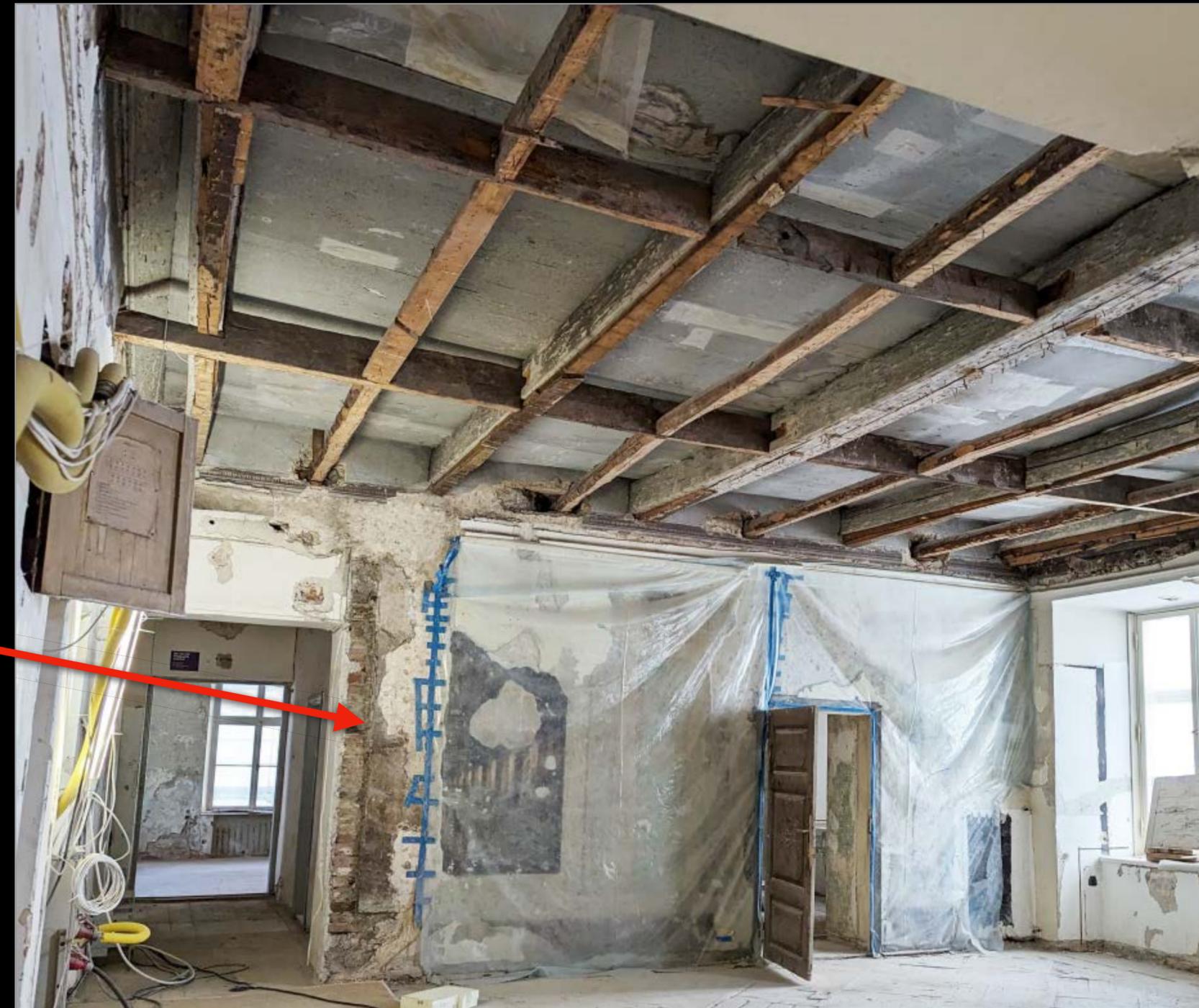
MARCH 2023: DEMOUNTING THE MID-19TH CENTURY PAINTINGS



MARCH 2023: DEMOUNTING THE MID-19TH CENTURY PAINTINGS



MAY 2023: DEMOUNTING THE MID-19TH CENTURY CEILING AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY WALL



JUNE 2023: DEMOUNTING THE 17TH CENTURY PLAFOND



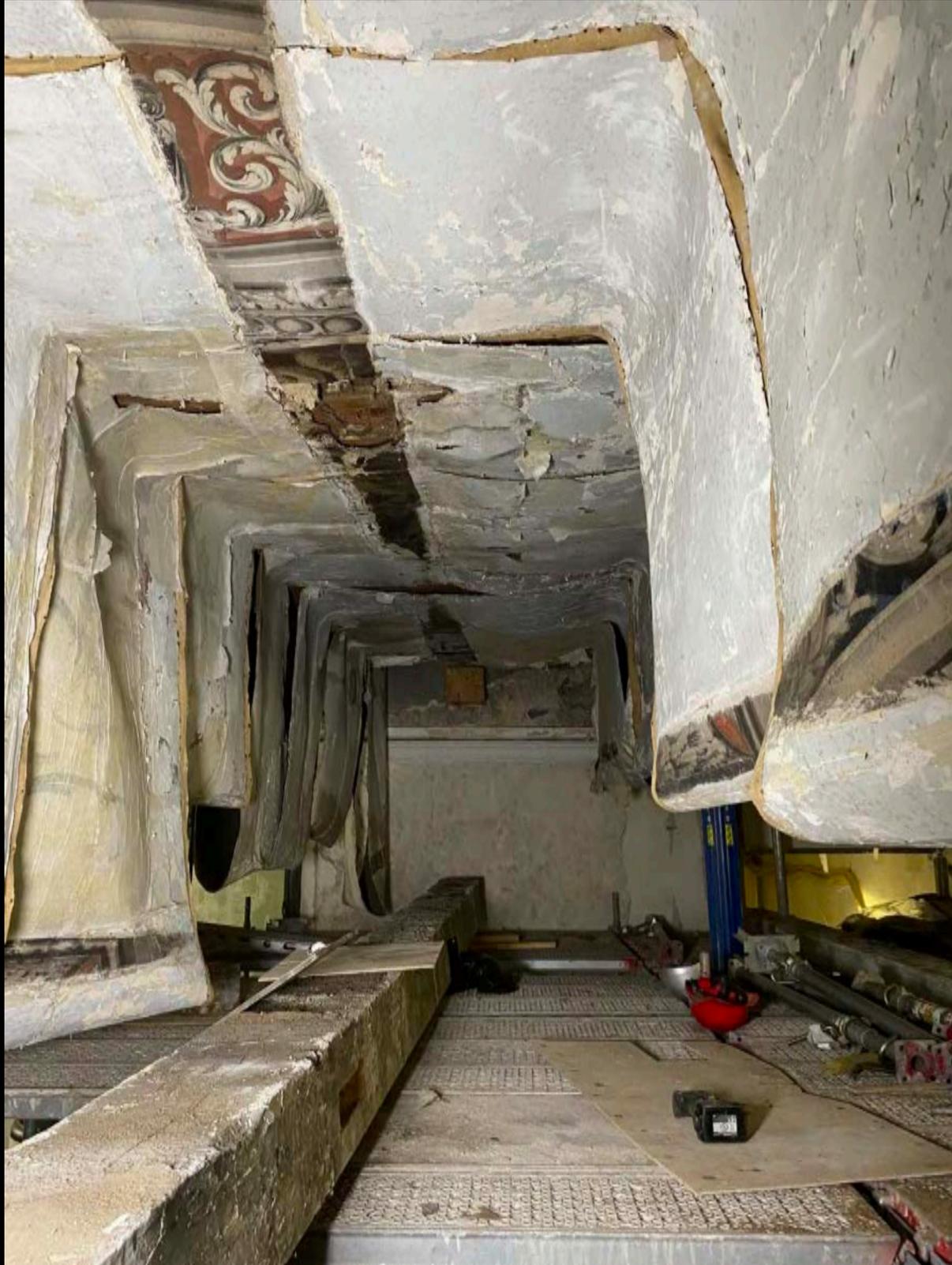
JUNE 2023: DEMOUNTING THE 17TH CENTURY PLAFOND



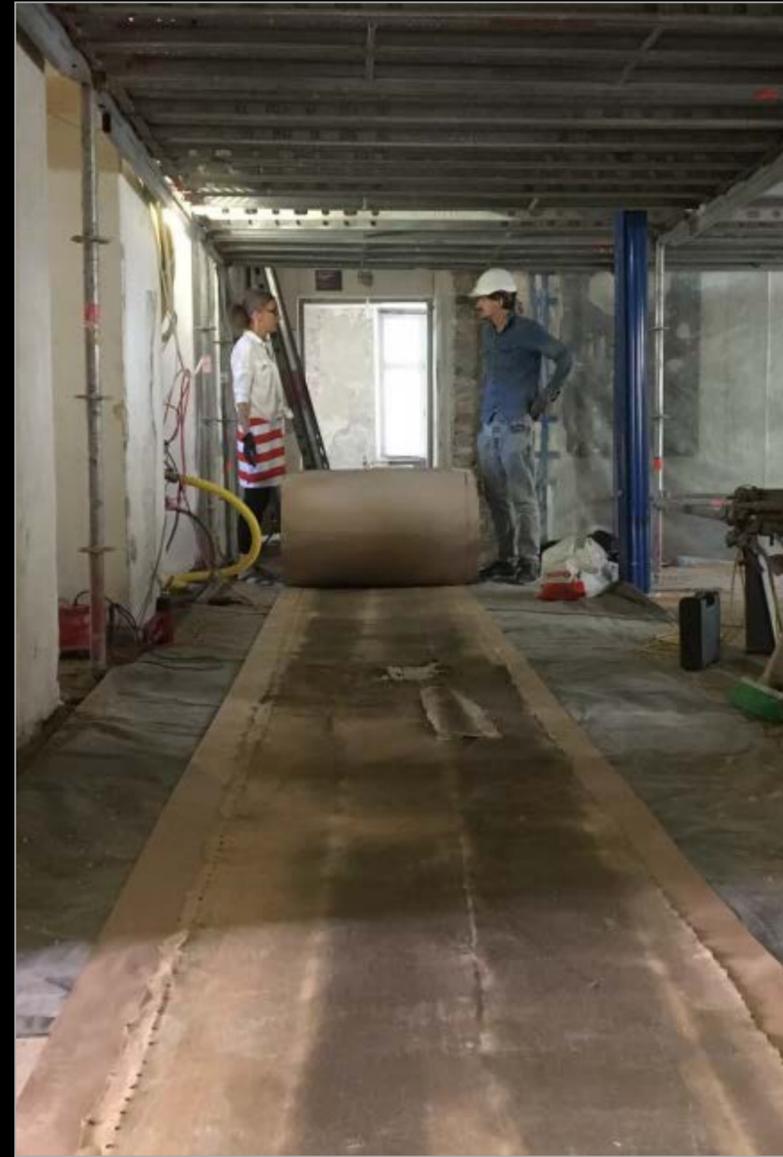
JUNE 2023: DEMOUNTING THE 17TH CENTURY PLAFOND



JUNE 2023: DEMOUNTING THE 17TH CENTURY PLAFOND



JUNE 2023: DEMOUNTING THE 17TH CENTURY PLAFOND



JUNE 2023: DEMOUNTING THE 17TH CENTURY PLAFOND



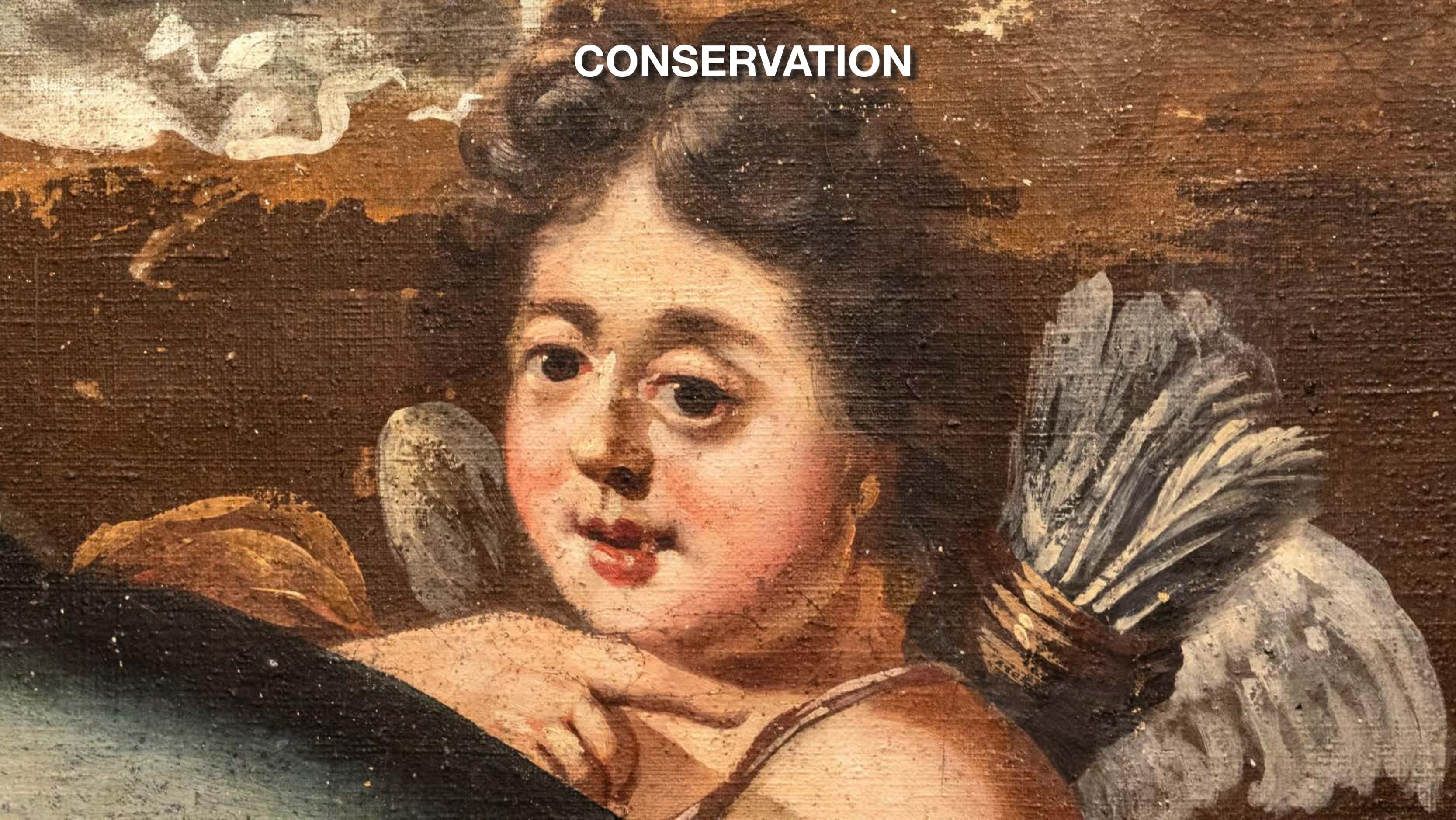
SEPTEMBER 2023: TRANSPORTATION TO THE STUDIO AND UNROALING

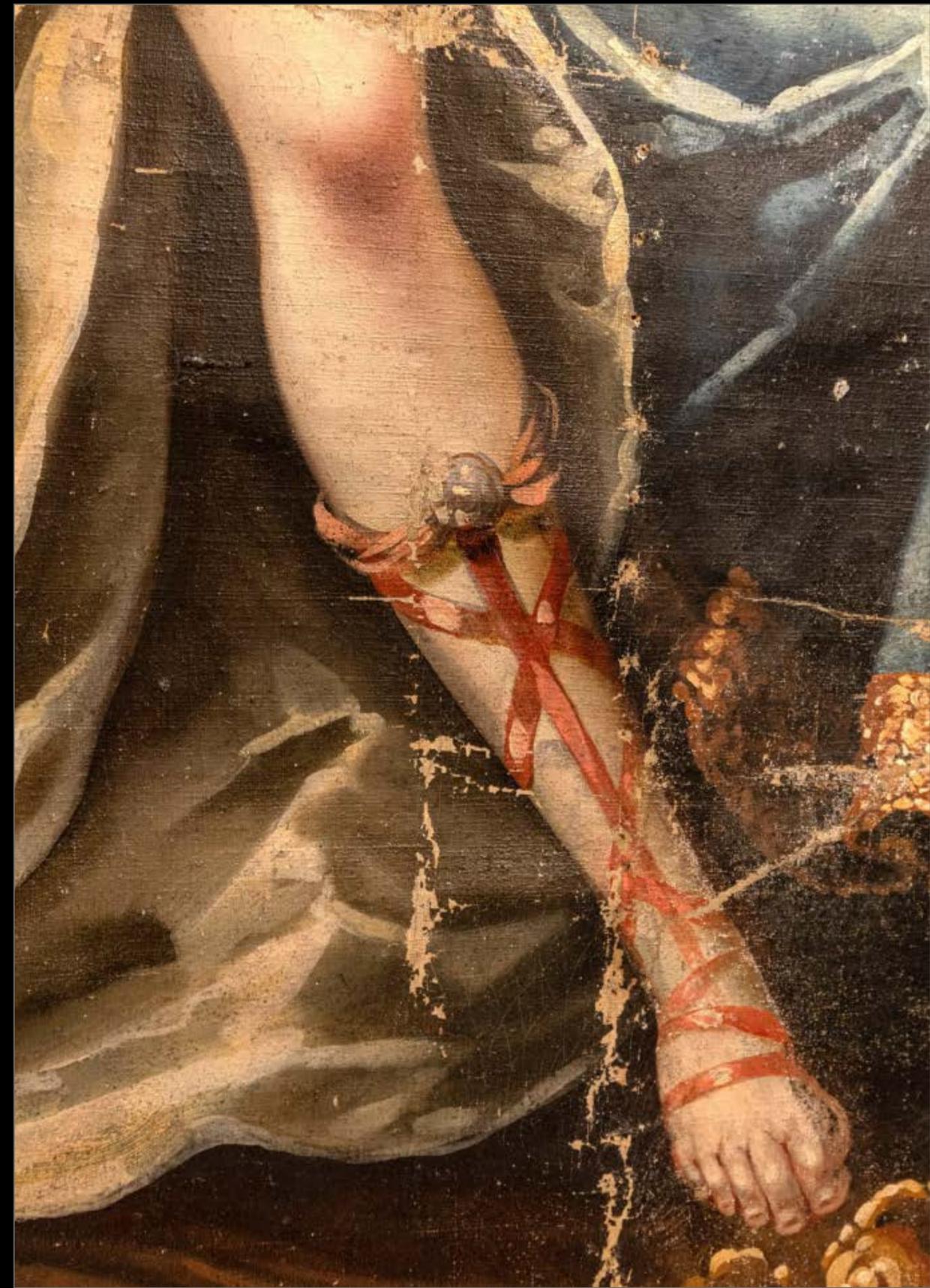
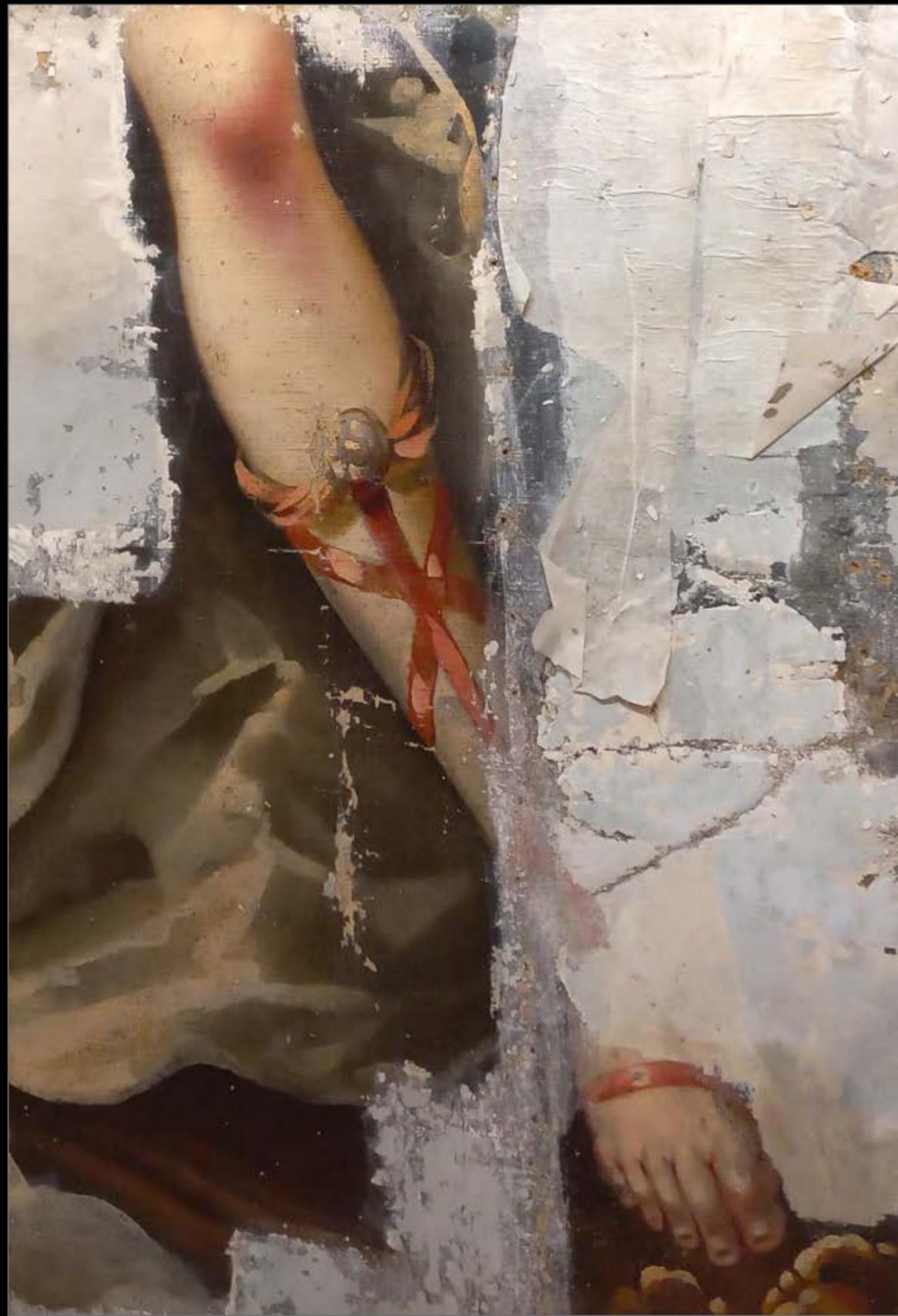


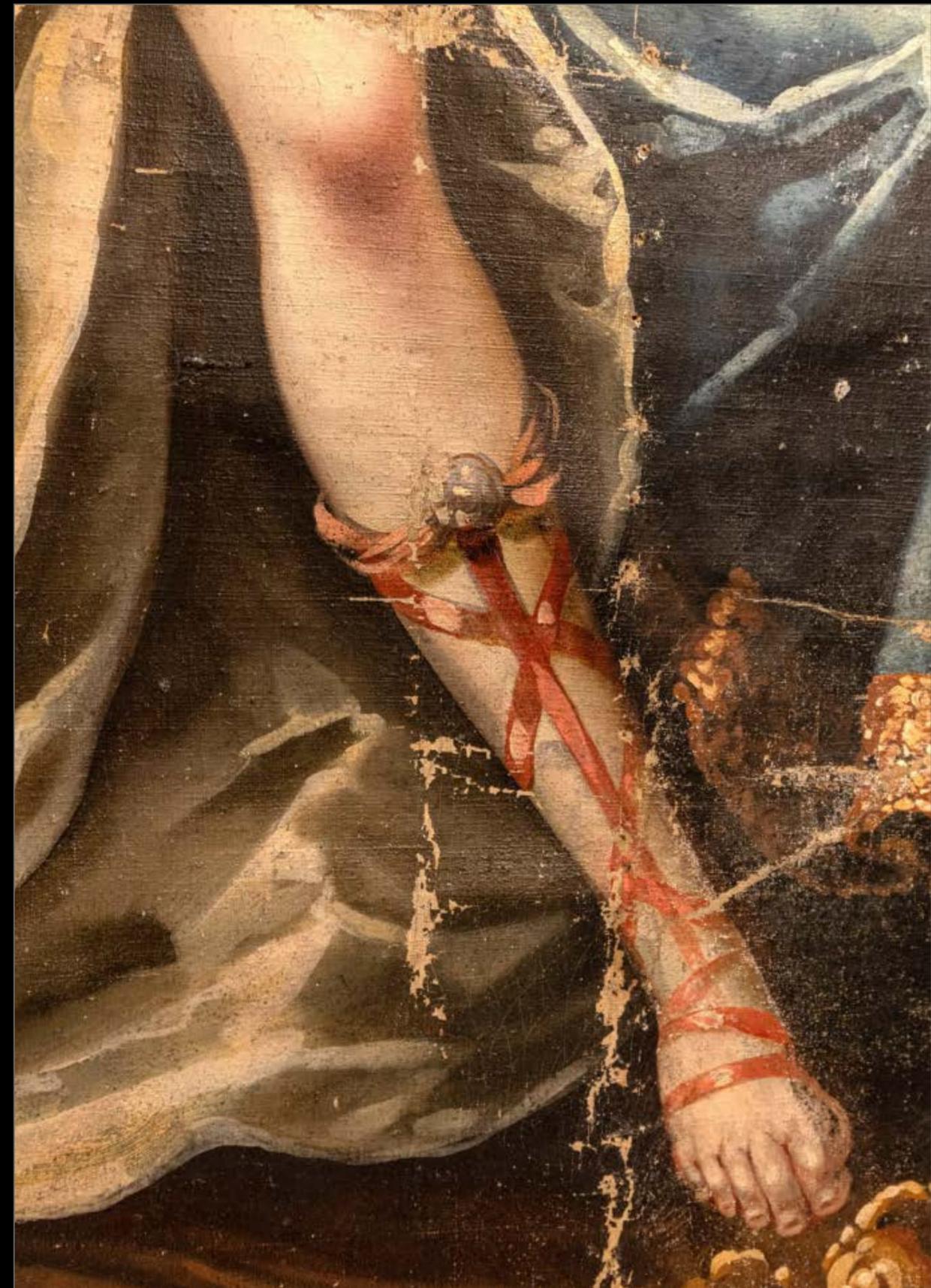
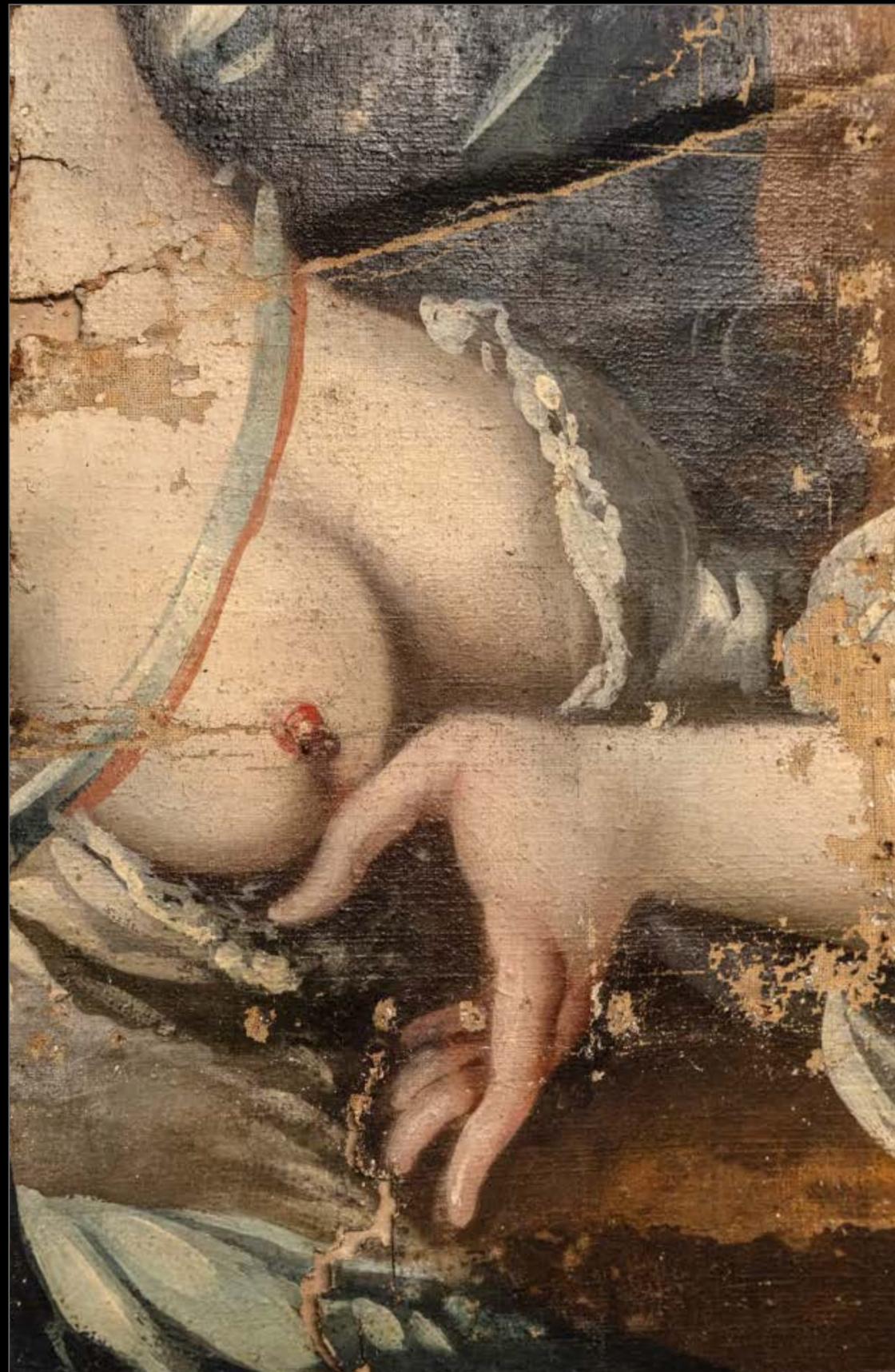
SEPTEMBER 2023: TRANSPORTATION TO THE STUDIO AND UNROALING

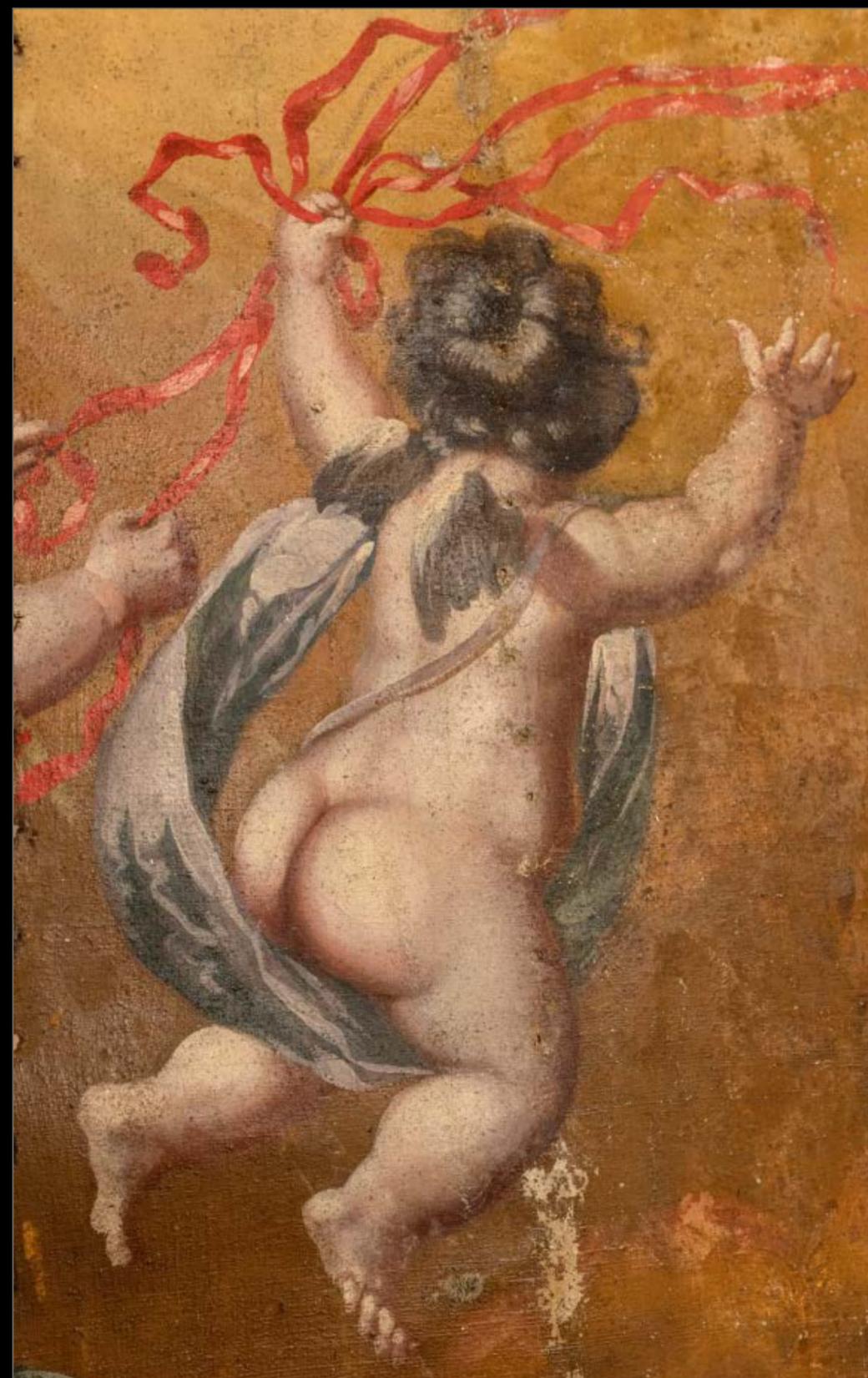
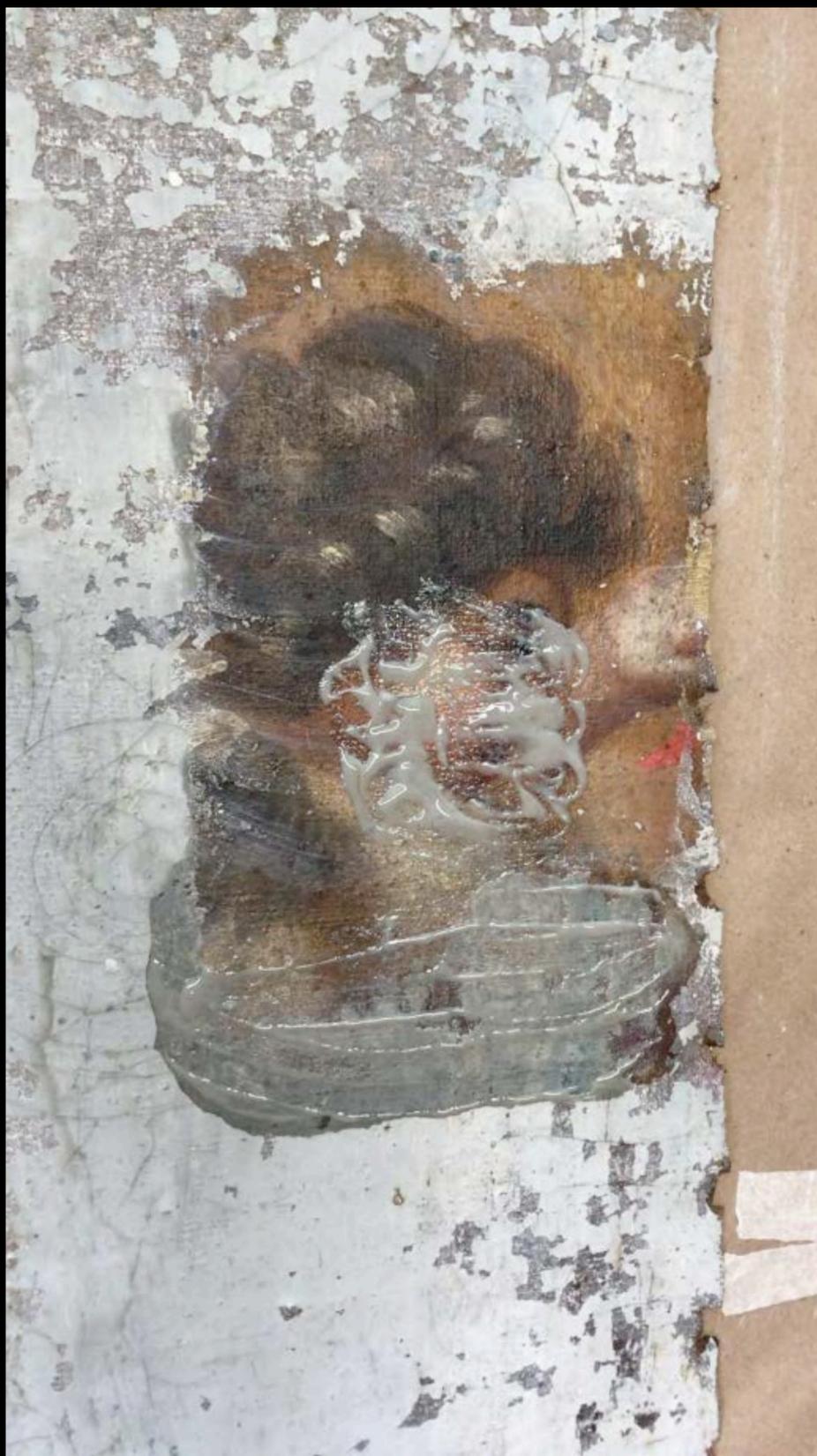


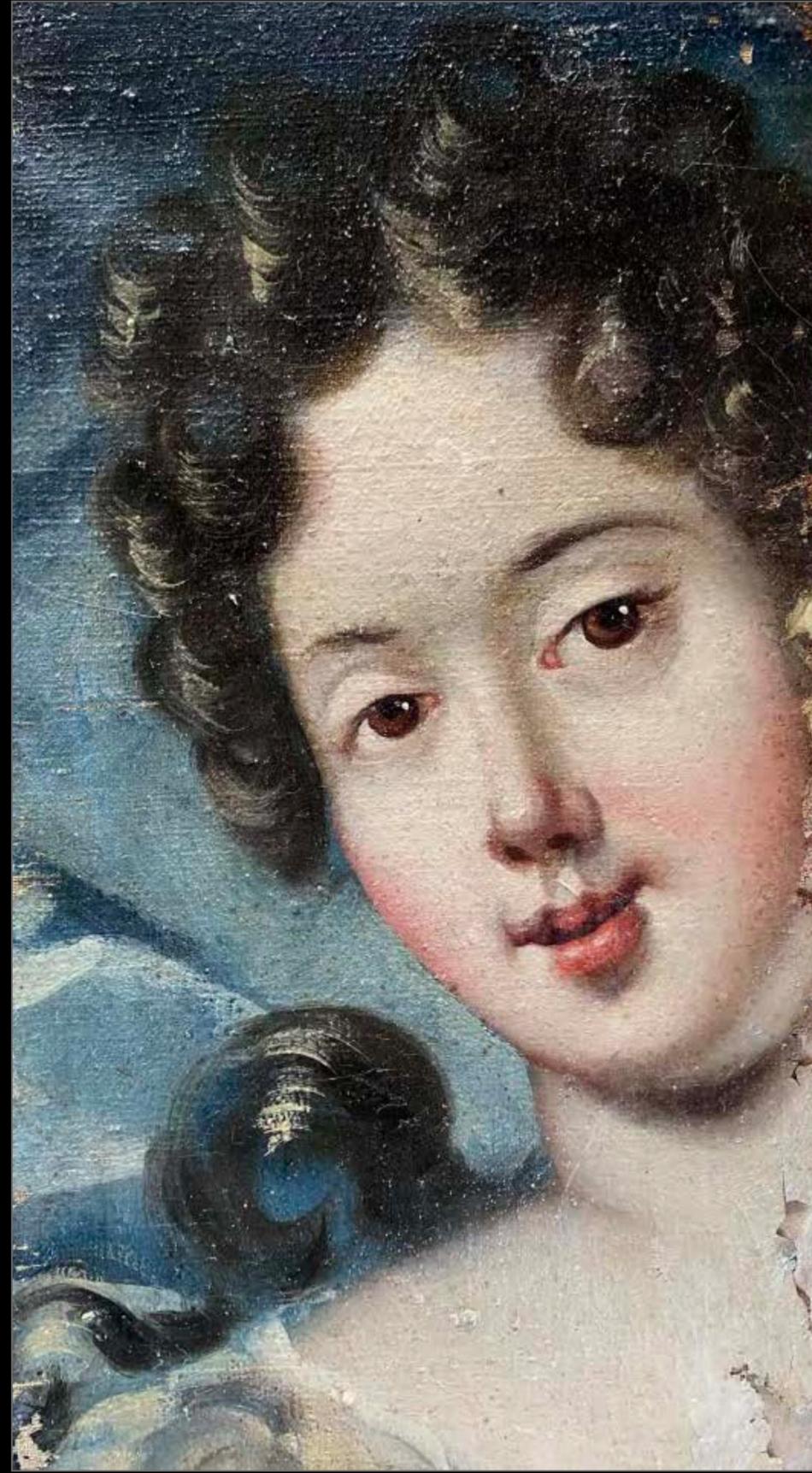
CONSERVATION

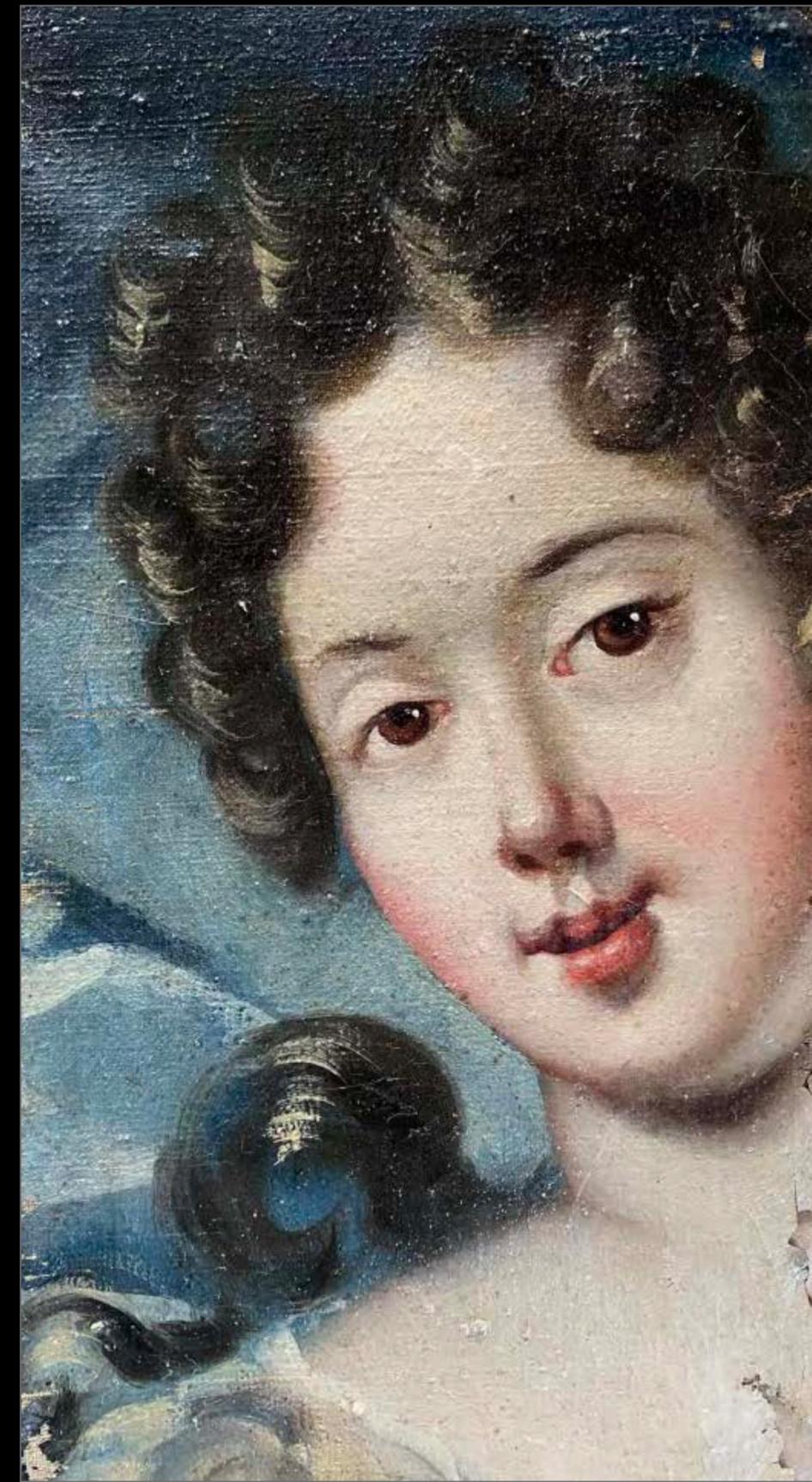
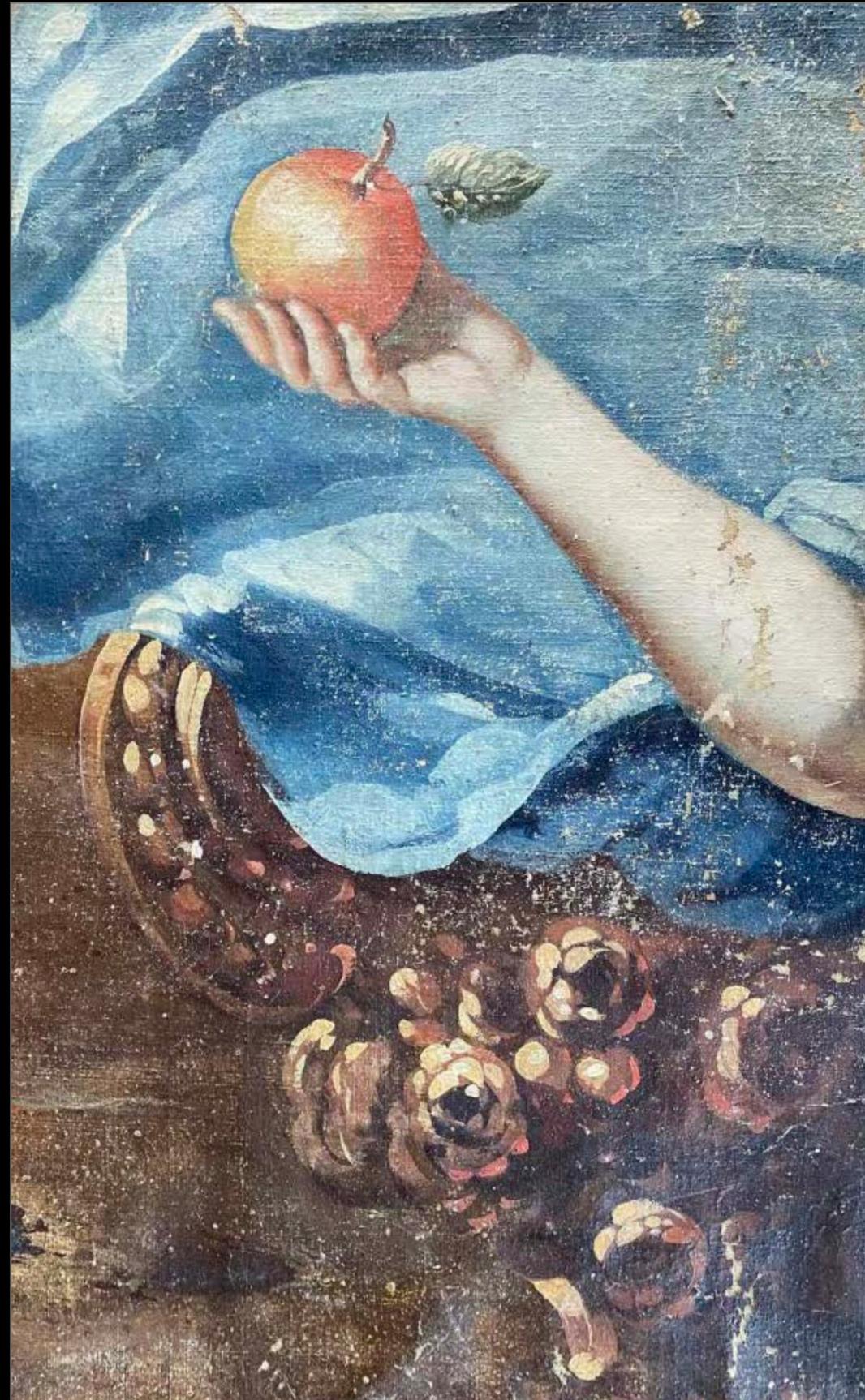


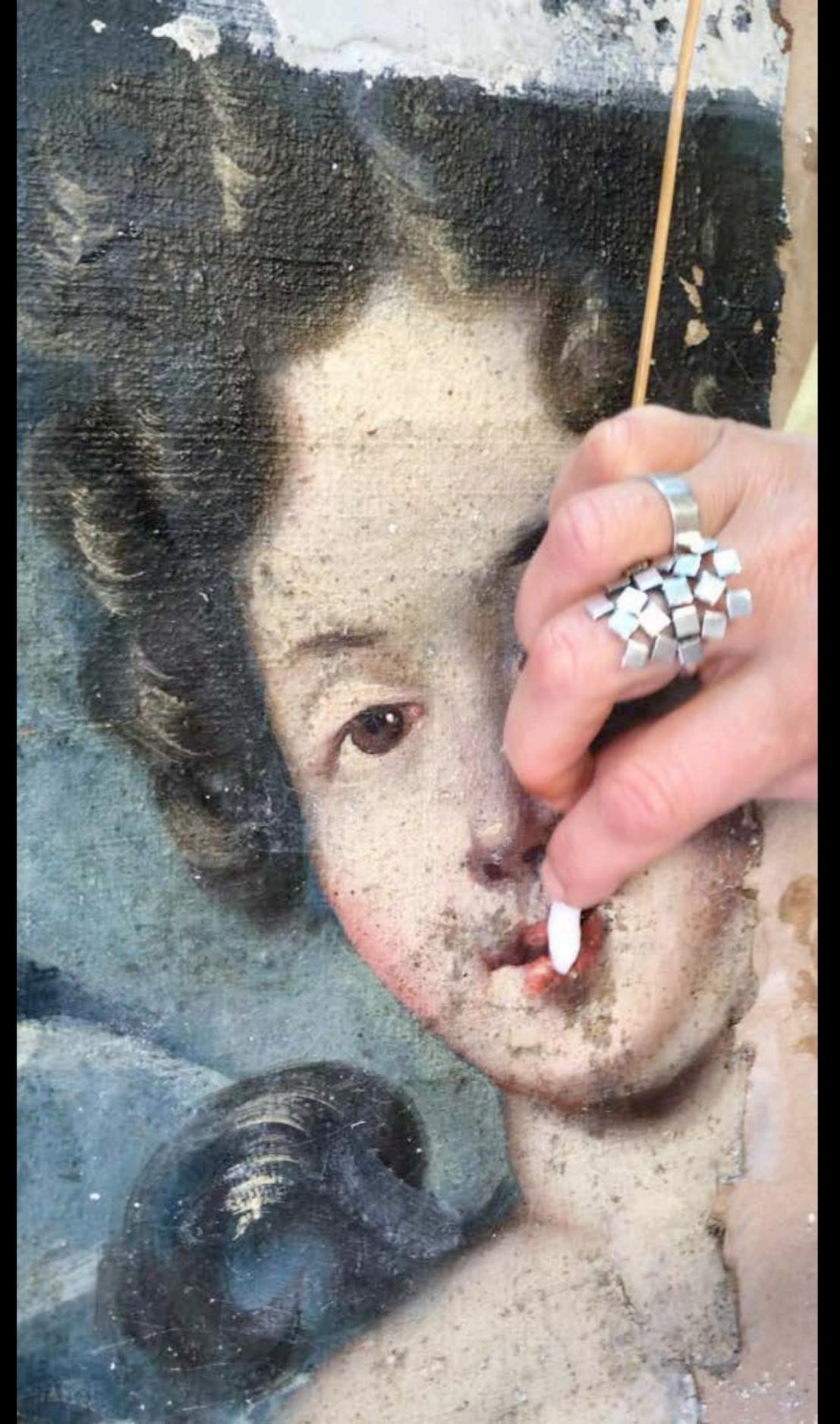
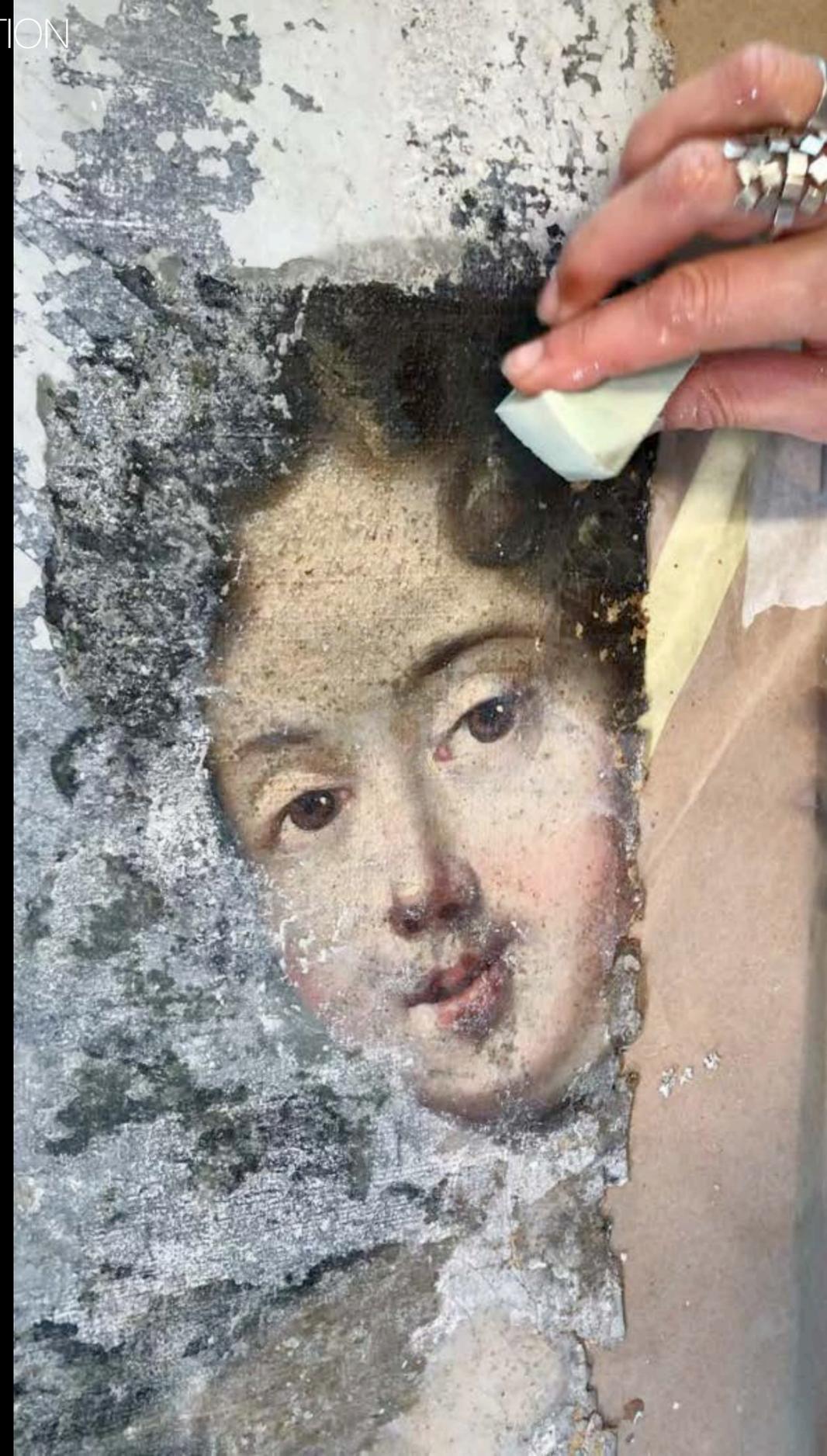




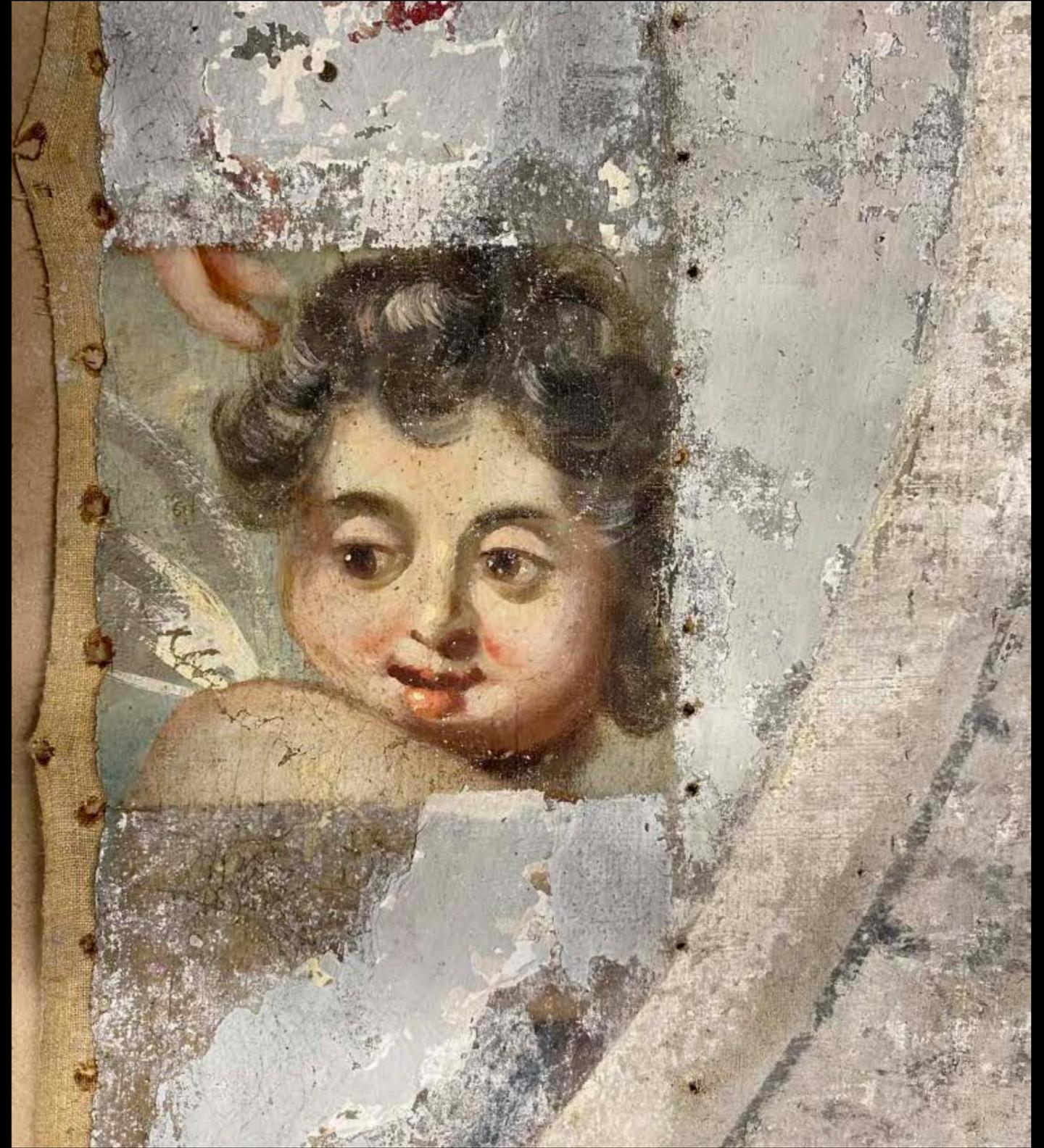














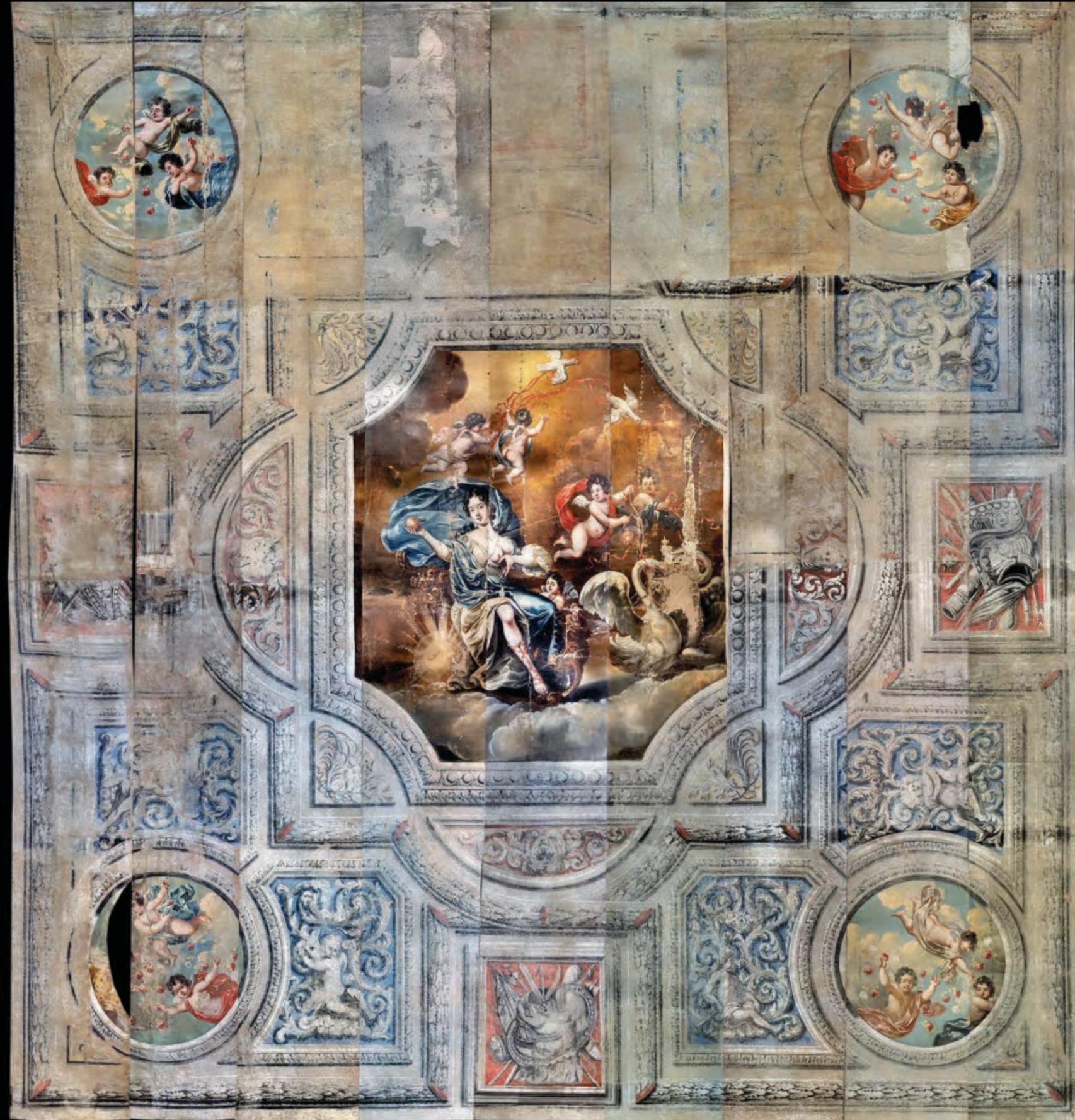
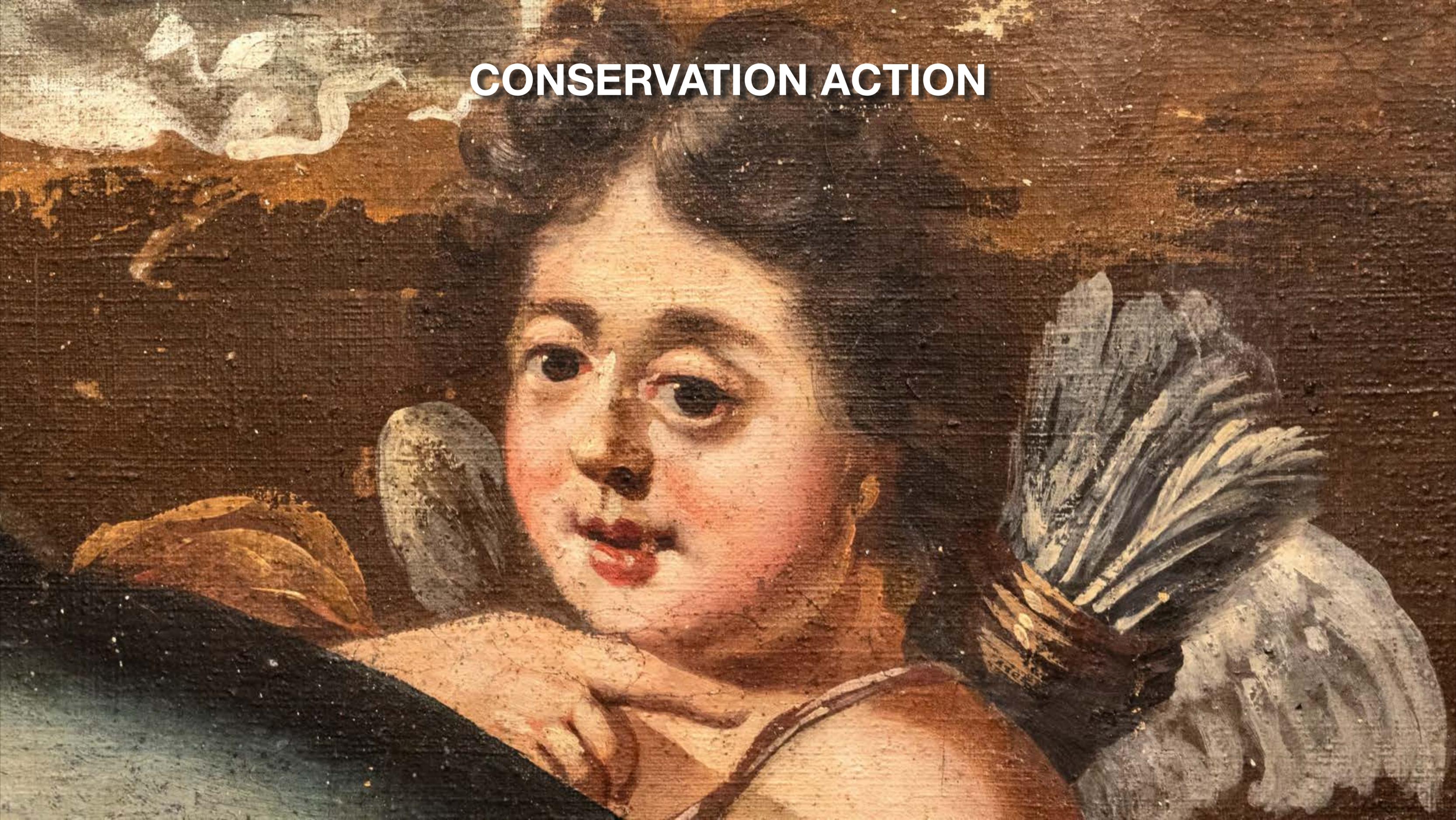


Foto: Andres Uueni



CONSERVATION ACTION







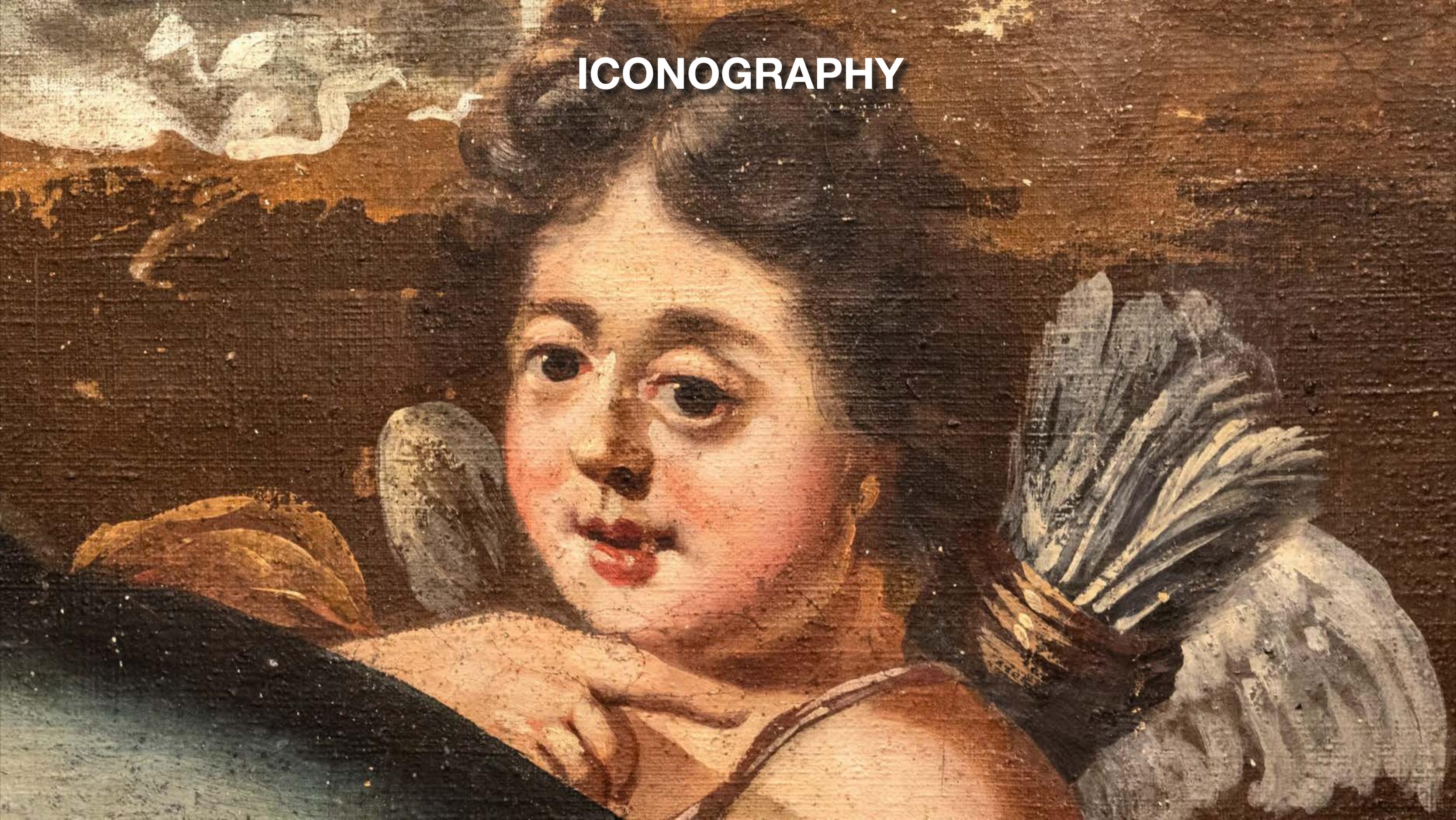
AUGUST 2024: TRANSPORTATION BACK TO NOBILITY HOUSE



SEPTEMBER 2024: REMOUNTING



ICONOGRAPHY



Gerard de Lairese, 1675-80, Venuse flying to Olympus

<https://www.rijksmuseum.nl/en/collection/RP-P-OB-102.609>



Gerard de Lairese 1675 - 1680

G. Lairese f.

DATE?
ATTRIBUTION?

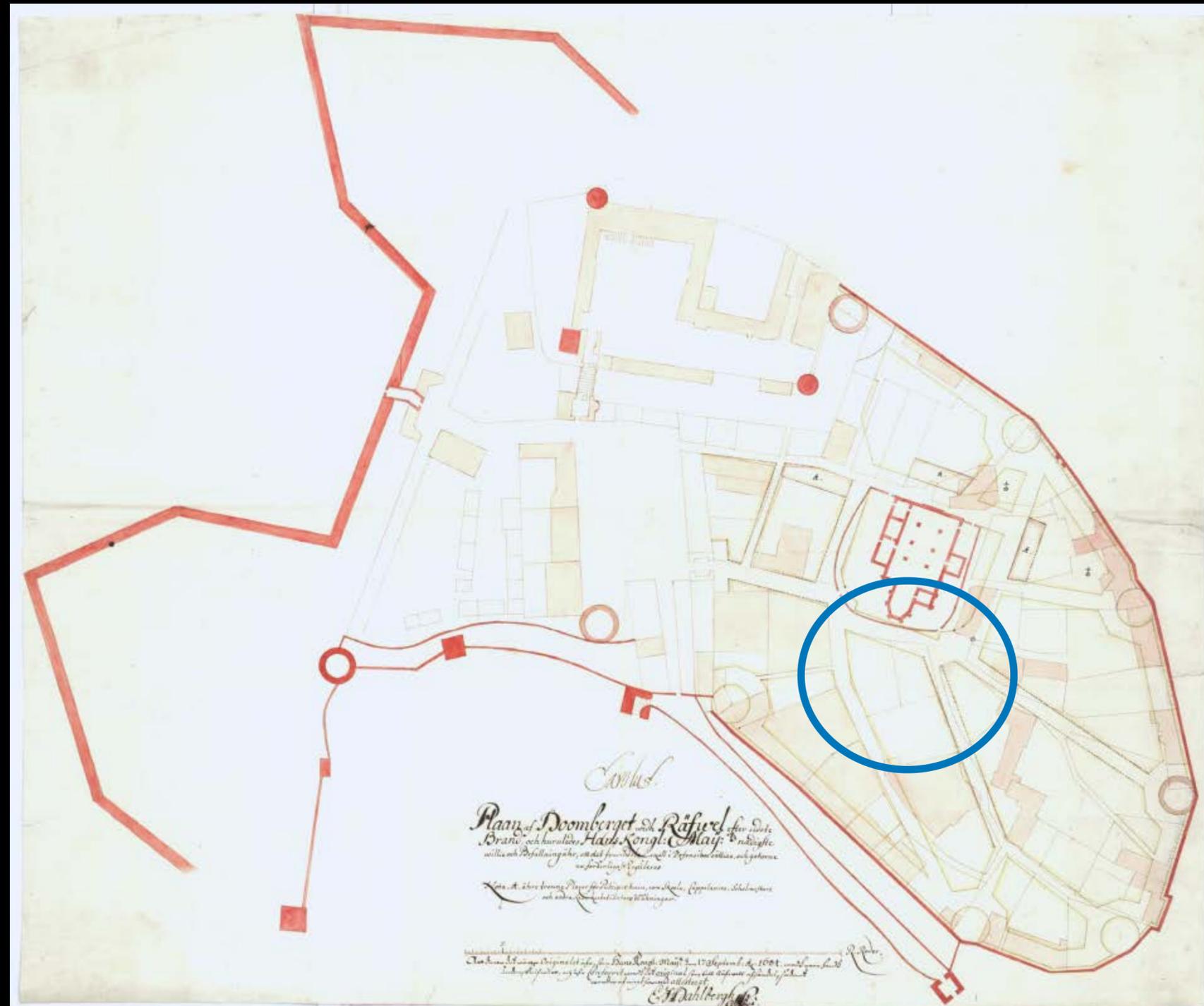


BEFORE THE BIG FIRE IN TOOMPEA 6th of June 1684



Oktoobris 1683 tehtud ja täna Stockholmis asuva Tallinna kindluse maketist tehti 1937. aastal koopia, mis täna asub Tallinna Linnamuseumi Kiek in de Köki tornis.

BEFORE THE BIG FIRE IN TOOMPEA 6th of June 1684



Pärast suurt tulekahju Toompeal 6. juunil (rootsi kalendri järgi) 1684 inventeeriti uuesti kogu Toompea ehituskehand. Tunas Rüütelkonna hoone kinnistu kohal on tühjus, mis näitab, et vähemalt maa pealt hävis tules kõik. Rootsi Riigiarhiivi Sõjaarhiiv (Riksarkivets Krigsarkivet) Stockholmis, RA KrA:0406:28:040:009a.

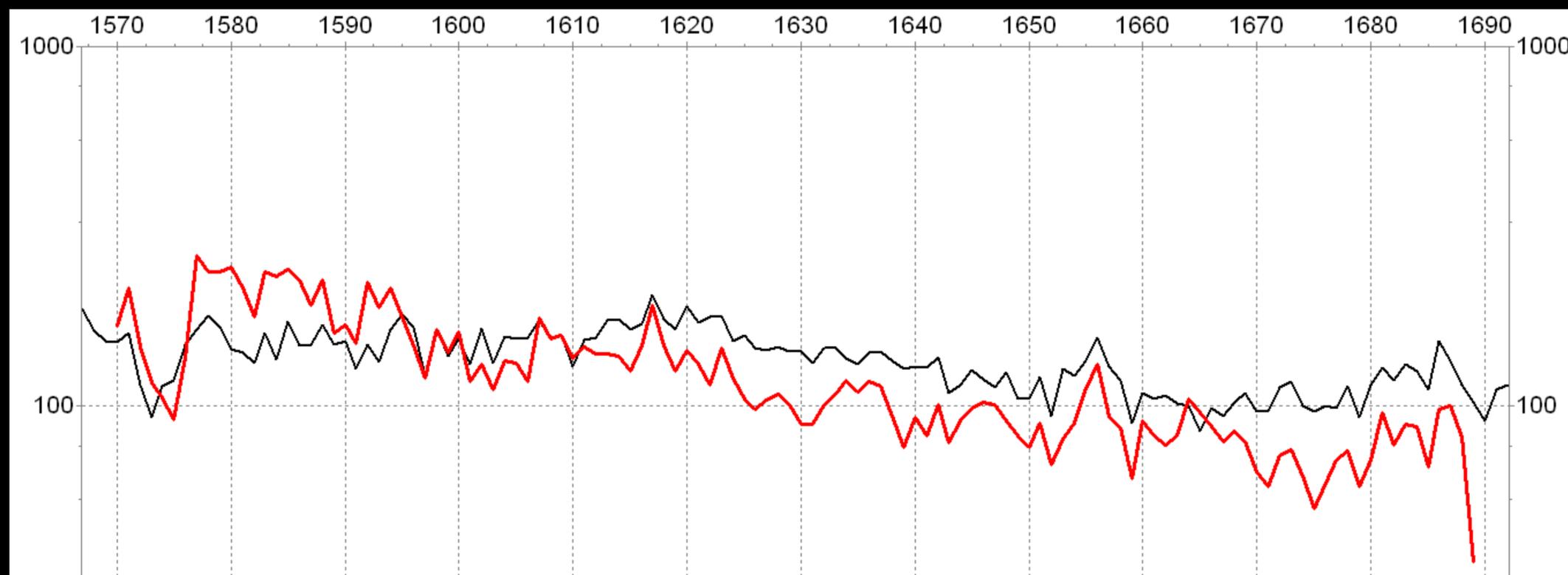
Im Namen der Heiligen und unzer-
theilten Drey Einigkeit!

Undt und zu wissen sey hiemit jedermänniglich,
Auf Verordn. Oberrath und Conditio die sijn, Vnen
Vnsen gegenwärtigen Landt, Dreyff zu sijn,
Lepin, oder Judiciren vor Combl. Soudylich
Abt, Vnen Varen galyen, Vsin unten geschriben
Dato in wassm. Pign. außschiffen, und in wasser
wässlicher Landt Contract Grundt, eingezogen,
und geschlossen worden, zwischen einer ysaac
Hofmeyer, und Oberrathenen Ritterschafft der
Hertzogthumb Esten, als Landtman an imen,
und von Oberrathenen Herrn Hans Jürgen von
Üxküll lebend auf Dörfer, Fickell und
Mentz, Vose vorordneten Landtlast Vnsen
Hertzogthumb, als der Landtman dem andern
Theil, ein sijn und sijn loben, und Nachkommen,
alld und folgendes gehalten.

Es hat wohlgedacht Herr Landt Rath Hans
Jürgen von Üxküll Verkauft, wie so vnu
sich hiemit und in Quast Vnsen Dreyff
schriben zu Landtman, und von Landtman
sich und sijn loben, an Vix Hofmeyer
Dreyff

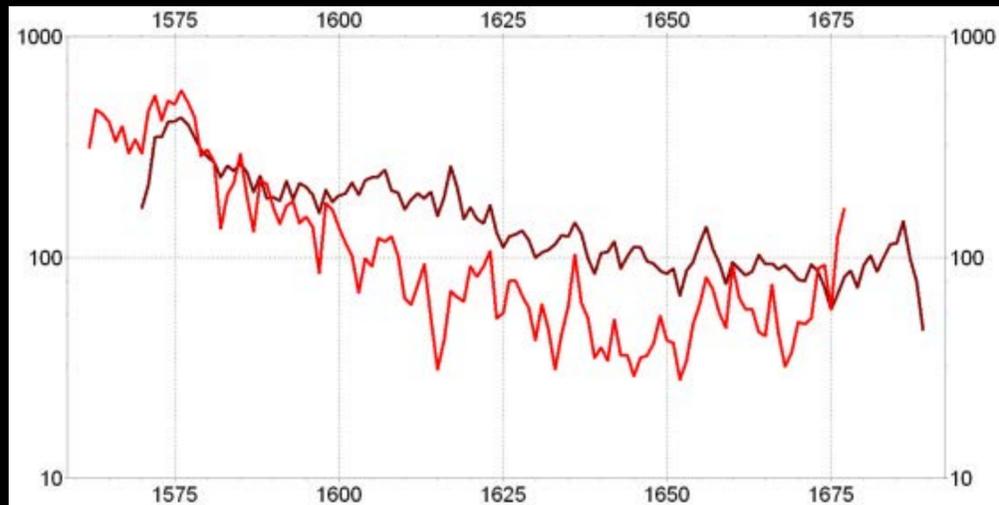
The contract of purchase and sale between the *Ritterschafft* of Estland and *Landrat* Hans Jürgen von Üxküll concerning the registered immovable located at the edge of Kirikuplats on Toompea and the 'newly completed' building situated on that lot. The first page of the transcript from 1721 can be seen in the photograph of the document from 1694. Estonian National Archives, RA, EAA.854.2.1924, 30.

1689

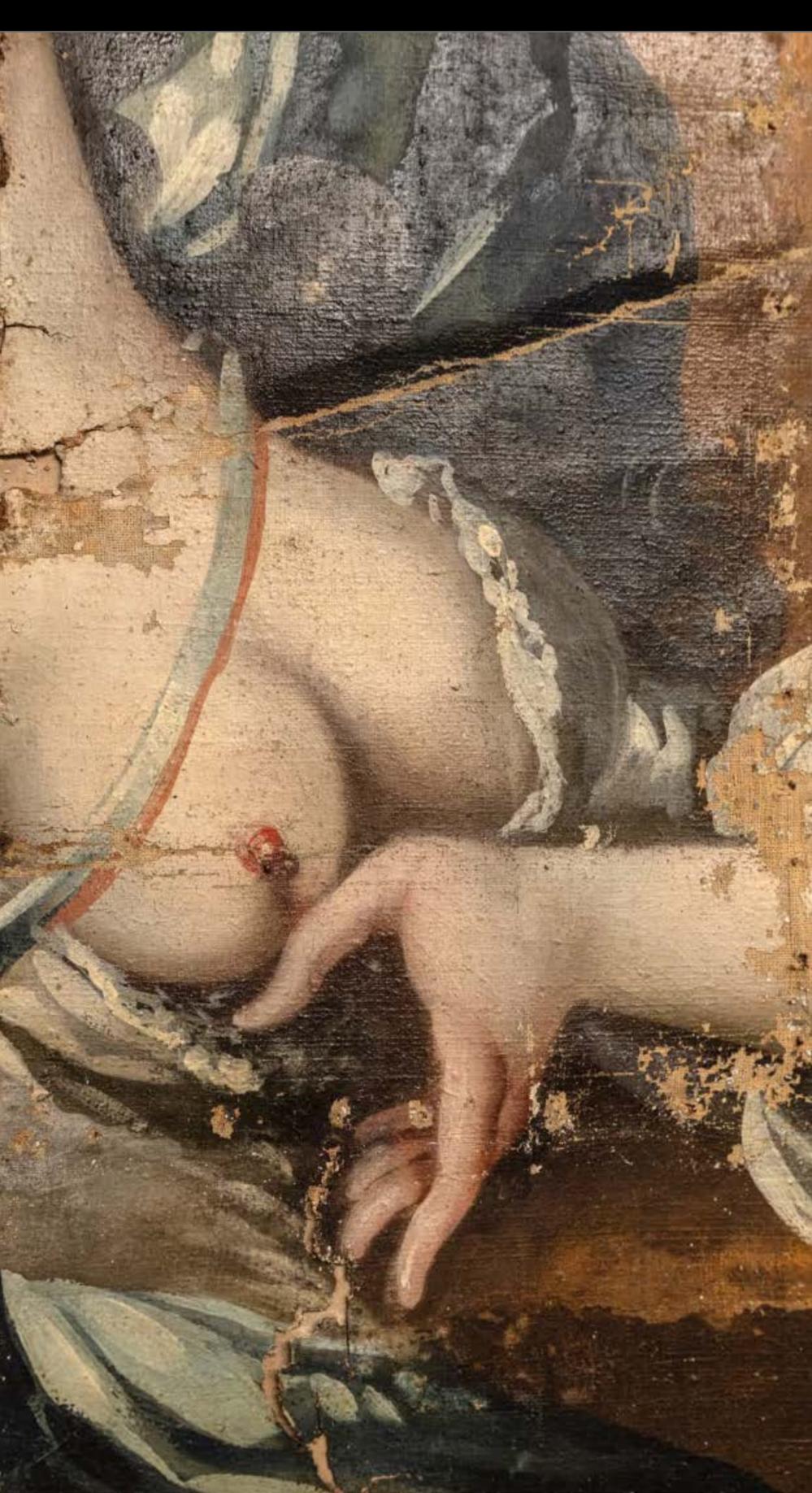


Frame

Alar Läänelaid: *We can assume, that pine wood for preparing the frame of the plafond is cut the same year as the structural elements of the building, i.e at 1689*



Laeplafooni raamiproovi aastarõngalaiuste rida (punane joon) sünkroones positsioonis rüütelkonna hoone laetalastike I ja II keskmise aastarõngalaiuste reaga.



Memoirs of Roman von Antropoff (1836-1926), the son of the secretary of the *Estländisches Oberlandgericht*:

“...In that room, the entire ceiling was covered with a painted canvas, which depicted a very corpulent Ceres with awesome, very naked breasts together with allegorical figures and ornamentation. As far as I know, that painting was from the Rococo period. I cannot judge what its value may have been, yet I do not believe that it was highly valued. I don't know what became of that picture. Perhaps it was taken down, perhaps it was plastered over..”

Ruum 128





Dimension: 60 m2 (biggest in Estonia)
Date: latest 1694 (only dated canvas plafond)
Attribution: still unknown

THANKS!