



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
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Date: Tuesday November 26, 2019
Page No: 1

CaselD: 14377

PermitID: 3038

PERMIT: Maintenance/Restoration

In terms of Section 32(13) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Permit Holder: Dr David Pearce
Rock Art Research Institute
University of the Witwatersrand
Private Bag 3, 2050

Object: RP/2005/007, RP/2005/009, RP/2005/011, RP/2005/013, RP/2005/014, RP/2005/016, RP/2005/021, RP/2005/028, RP/2005/029, RP/2005/031, RP/2005/032, RP/2005/033, RP/2005/037, RP/2005/038, RP/2005/040, RP/2005/043, RP/2005/044, RP/2005/046, RP/2005/047, RP/2005/051, RP/2005/073

The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) issues this Maintenance/Restoration Permit to the applicant: **David Pearce**, on behalf of the Rock Art Research Institute (RARI), for the proposed brush cleaning, solubility testing and repair work on the moveable Rock Art pieces which comprise the Specifically Declared Paul Loewenstein Collection, housed at RARI at the University of the Witwatersrand (WITS).

The permit is issued under the following conditions:

- The restoration work must be conducted by Rock Art Conservator **DR. J. Claire Dean**, and the approved methodology (attached to this permit) must be followed;
- DStretch post-processing should be applied to the photographs taken prior to the commencement of cleaning to ensure all painted areas are visible before the cleaning work begins;
- Care must be taken to ensure that the panels are not damaged during the process;
- All restoration work should be reversible;
- SAHRA must receive a full report on the conservation and restoration work, which should include recommendations for possible future conservation treatment. The report must be submitted, via email, to the relevant heritage officer at SAHRA within three (3) months of the completed work (chahndiek@sahra.org.za);
- SAHRA shall not be held liable for any losses, damages, or injuries to persons, or properties, as a result of any activities relating to this permit;
- SAHRA reserves the right to cancel this permit upon notice to the permit holder;
- Restoration work may only be conducted after 14 calendar days of the issuing of this permit, to allow for any appeals that may be lodged.

This permit is valid from

Surface cleaning and repair of Rock Art painted stones in Paul Loewenstein collection

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11/12/2019 to 11/12/2020

Cuan Hahndiek
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Regina Isaacs
Manager: Heritage Objects Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Additional Info:

Please note that this permit may be suspended should an appeal against the decisions be received by SAHRA within 14 days from the date of the permit. SAHRA may not be held responsible for any costs or losses incurred in the event of the suspension or retraction of this permit.

ADMIN: Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/529213>



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Inventory of Permitted Objects Issued Under SAHRIS PermitID: 3038

The following Inventory of Permitted Objects applies to issued **PermitID:3038 – Maintenance/Restoration Permit for cleaning and repair on the Loewenstein Collection.**
This Inventory must accompany the issued permit.



Object ID: 63902
Object Code: RP/2005/007
Description: Group of female figures carrying digging sticks with bored stone



Object ID: 63903
Object Code: RP/2005/009
Description: Two human figures in red. Red paint on the edge of stone




Object ID: 63904
Object Code: RP/2005/011
Description: Two rhebuck painted in red. Remains of other paintings in red.



Object ID: 63905
Object Code: RP/2005/013
Description: Paintings of hartebeest and eland in red



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 <p>Object ID: 63906 Object Code: RP/2005/014 Description: Two birds and remains of a third painted in red. Stone appears to have broken into three and been repaired with cement</p>	 <p>Object ID: 63907 Object Code: RP/2005/016 Description: Group of fish painted in red</p>
 <p>Object ID: 63908 Object Code: RP/2005/021 Description: Castellated red figure.</p>	 <p>Object ID: 63909 Object Code: RP/2005/023 Description: Eland painted in dark red, partial eland painted in white and yellow + two human figures painted in red</p>
 <p>Object ID: 63910 Object Code: RP/2005/028 Description: Three human figures in red. Blotch of red paint.</p>	 <p>Object ID: 63911 Object Code: RP/2005/029 Description: Rectangular block of sandstone. Two human figures in black. Traces of other black paint.</p>



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Object ID: 63912
Object Code: RP/2005/031
Description: Two human figures in black. Remains of red animal.



Object ID: 63913
Object Code: RP/2005/032
Description: Feint remains of white animal



Object ID: 63914
Object Code: RP/2005/033
Description: Group of human figures with bows and arrows in red.



Object ID: 63915
Object Code: RP/2005/037
Description: Three polychrome eland. Three red and black human figures. Red blotch. Stone previously broken in two and repaired with cement.



Object ID: 63916
Object Code: RP/2005/038
Description: Five red therianthrop figures. Stone is broken horizontally



Object ID: 63917
Object Code: RP/2005/040
Description: Sandstone piece broken into three pieces. Previously set in cement. Stone set in cement now split into three pieces. Three human figures in red



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Object ID: 63918
Object Code: RP/2005/043
Description: Square block of sandstone. Traces of red paint on surface. Possible black and white paint on surface. Stone partially set in cement.



Object ID: 63919
Object Code: RP/2005/044
Description: Red and white eland in centre of stone. Second red and white eland on top of stone truncated where stone was cut.



Object ID: 63920
Object Code: RP/2005/046
Description: Clear painting of eland in red and white. Fragmentary remains of three further animals and human figures on lower part of face



Object ID: 63921
Object Code: RP/2005/047
Description: Rectangular block of sandstone Broken surface with remains of paintings of animal in red, and two human figures in red.



Object ID: 63922
Object Code: RP/2005/051
Description: Two human figures and two animals all in red. Other remains of red paint on surface



Object ID: 63923
Object Code: RP/2005/073
Description: Two red humans and lower portions of a further two red human figures. Edges and faces of stone abraded.



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**PROPOSAL FOR A CONSERVATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF THE
LOEWENSTEIN ROCK ART FRAGMENT COLLECTION.**

I have been asked to carry out a conservation needs assessment of the fragments of rock art panels that form the Loewenstein Collection held at the Rock Art Research Institute (RARI), University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. In addition, the repair of a fragment (RARI number RP/2005/040, Archaeological Survey number 20/54), historically reconstructed using what appears to be cement and which has subsequently broken along the old repair lines, has also been requested and is included here. The work described below is associated with the estimate of costs provided to RARI on August 10th, 2019.

To properly assess the conservation needs of these objects some rudimentary surface cleaning is likely to be needed. This will not only allow for proper examination of the surfaces of the fragments, but will be of basic benefit to their general condition. It is known that accumulations of surface dirt not only obscure surfaces, but also can be detrimental over time, becoming indurated, concentrating moisture on the surface and, depending on their composition, causing damage to the surface by chemical interaction between the surface and the layer of dirt. This last situation is more common and of greater concern in areas with polluted air such as city environments, as is the case in Johannesburg. In addition, information about the solubility of the pictograph materials will be invaluable if examination suggests that further cleaning using damp methods, would be beneficial. Knowing whether or not the pigments are sensitive to moisture will also provide basic information useful in providing appropriate long-term storage for the pieces. General cleaning using damp methods is **not** proposed as part of the current work as this represents a significant treatment project which goes beyond carrying out a conservation needs assessment.

The following is my proposal for completing the requested work. All steps use the least aggressive and intrusive methods and materials to achieve the goal of a thorough needs assessment. All work will be carried out by myself and in keeping with the [Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Practice](#) of the American Institute for Conservation. The following proposal is based on information provided by Dr. David Pearce, Director of RARI (Pearce, April 2019) and a brief personal examination of the fragments in June 2019.

For all fragments (including those in need of structural repair):

1. Each fragment will be photographed before any examination or cleaning takes place (existing, recently taken photographs may be used if there are no indications of changes in appearance since they were taken).
2. Each fragment will be examined for general surface condition, especially areas of painted imagery. Examination will include the use of magnification using OptiVISORS®.

3. All surfaces will be mechanically cleaned where the examination undertaken in step 2 (above) indicates this would result in a more complete assessment of the conservation needs of the fragment, and/or if it will benefit the immediate condition and appearance of the fragment. This will be carried out by lightly and very gently brushing surfaces using sable hair artist's brushes to removed surface dust. If a vacuum cleaner is available it will be used at a distance of at least 15cm to collect dislodged, airborne dust.
4. Discrete testing of the solubility of pigments will be carried out to determine whether the fragments will benefit from possible future damp cleaning. Testing comprises using micro cotton swabs (the head being smaller than a match head), barely dampened with deionized water, applied to an inconspicuous area of each fragment surface to test for removal of any additional, more tenacious surface dirt. as well as any mobility of pigment. The mobility/solubility of painted areas will be similarly tested. Both of these testing steps will be carried out using magnification.
5. After examination and testing the fragments will be re-photographed to record their appearance and condition.
6. The data gathered will be collated and condition reports and needs assessments for each fragment will be completed and will include a record of any cleaning that has taken place.

For the broken fragment, RARI number RP/2005/040, Archaeological Survey number 20/54, steps 1 – 4 will be carried out after which the following additional treatment steps will take place:

5. The broken edges will be mechanically cleaned to remove all traces of dust, dirt, and loose old repair materials. If there are areas of the old repair material that need to be retained for structural reasons (for the benefit of the structural integrity of the fragments or the new repair), these will not be removed but incorporated into the new repair. The fragment includes a surrounding of cement – this will not be removed as attempting to do so would pose a significant risk of damage to the rock art fragment.
7. The join surfaces will be sealed with a 15% solution of Acryloid B72 in acetone. This application serves three primary purposes; it will consolidate and strengthen the joining surfaces, it will reduce migration of the joining adhesive into the matrix of the rock surface and concentrate it on the joining surfaces, and it creates a separation layer that will aid in reversal of the new repair if called for in the future.
8. The pieces will be re-joined using a two part epoxy adhesive. The exact brand has yet to be identified but will be of conservation grade (that is its long-term stability will be of primary importance) and it will either be purchased locally or brought to RARI from the USA. Joining may involve clamping the pieces together to hold them in correct position while the adhesive cures.

9. If necessary, any gaps in the joins that pose structural concerns will be filled with either additional epoxy adhesives, or a fill material such as Polycell® Pollyfla™ or similar, tinted with dry pigments to an appropriate colour.
10. After completion of the work described above, the fragment will be re-photographed to record its appearance and condition.
11. The condition report and treatment record will be completed.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns regarding this proposal.

Respectfully submitted,



J. Claire Dean
Conservator

September 26th, 2019.

References Cited:

Pearce, D. (April 2019). *Catalogue of the Paul Loewenstein Collection*. RARI, Johannesburg.

Preliminary Report of the Paul Loewenstein Collection of Rock Paintings. RARI, Johannesburg.