

# Identification of pigments in icons using micro-Raman spectroscopy. A case study in Cretan School of iconography

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## ABSTRACT

Identification of pigments in painting works of the cultural heritage, including icons of Byzantine culture, is usually achieved using micro-Raman spectroscopy. The advantages of the Raman method will be presented through an extended study which was carried out on samples removed from twenty four (24) icons of the Cretan School of iconography. The objects are dated within the 15th-17th century and belong to the collection of the Benaki Museum, Athens, Greece. The following pigments were identified in the cross-sections of the icon samples: cinnabar, red ochre, minium, yellow ochre, azurite, lapis lazuli, malachite, lead white and carbon black. Moreover, indigo, an organic colourant, was detected.