

# Hand in Hand: Conservation of Latex

## Working with contemporary artist Susie MacMurray on flock-lined latex gloves for A Mixture of Frailties (Part II)



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The goal of this project was to expose treated samples of natural latex to UV light for accelerated aging. The samples of latex had been previously treated by conservator Martha Singer. All samples were treated with the same chemical but applied in a variety of methods. The goal of the accelerated aging is to chart the changes in the latex and how those changes relate to the treatment method.

Three Application Methods Were Chosen for the Study

- Spray
- Nebulized
- Painted
- Plus Untreated Samples (as a control)

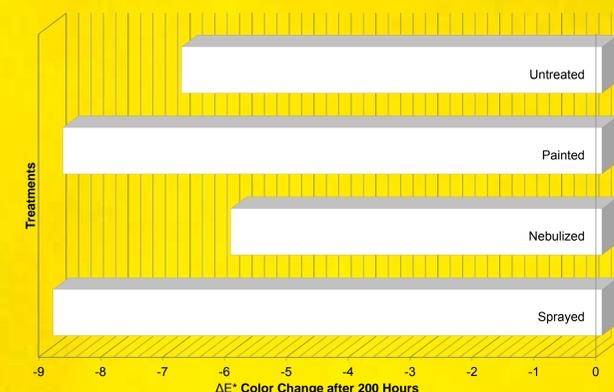
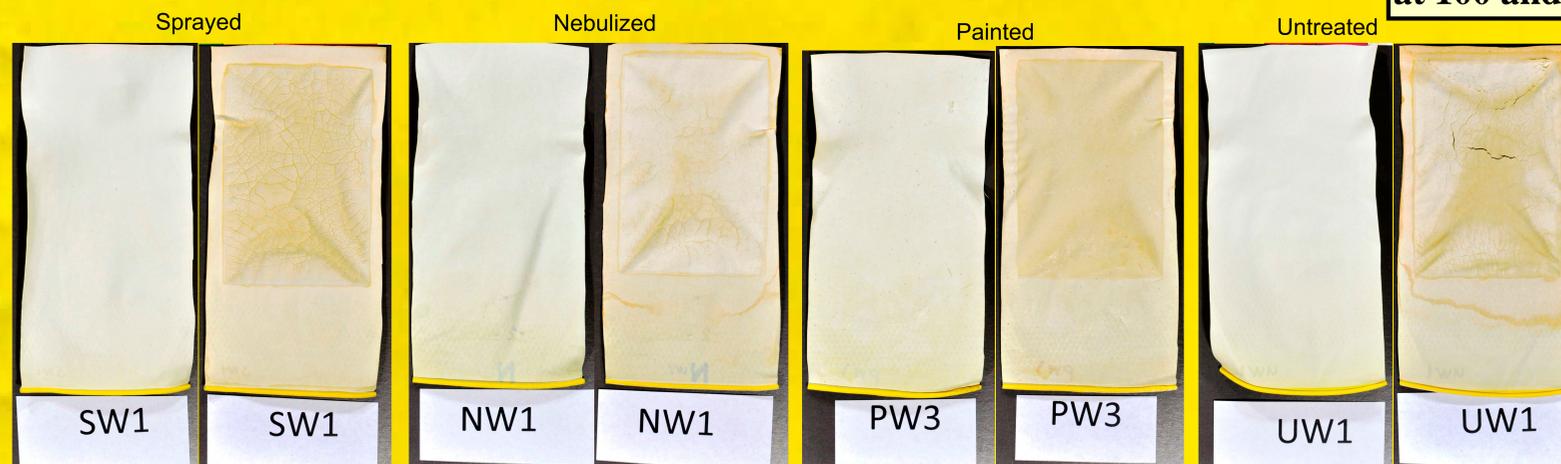


The samples were cut from Click 2000 Household medium weight gloves, product code HHMW size medium; gloves are flock lined natural rubber latex. These gloves are the same as those used by artist Susan MacMurray for her sculptural dresses.

All samples were exposed in a Q-Lab QUV Weatherometer for 200 hours as per ASTM standard D 4329. This standard has a light cycle of 8 hours followed by 4 dark hours repeated for 200 hours. All samples were photographed and color measurements taken before weathering and at 100 and 200 hours of weathering.



- **Sprayed:** Heavily crazed, soft but no elasticity.
- **Nebulized:** Less crazing, soft but no elasticity.
- **Painted:** No crazing, soft and elastic.
- **Untreated:** Cracked and separated, flocking flaking off.



The results of this testing will help to inform future conservation treatments on natural latex and to help the artist make decisions on material selection and treatment.