

Plausibly Paul Nash? An art historical and technical analytical study of an early twentieth century woodland scene

Sarah Knight and Lucie Slater



Attributed to Paul Nash, *Unknown Woodland Scene*, c.1924-30,
oil on five-ply board, 505 x 613 x 6.5mm, private collection

Abstract

This report details the technical analytical and art historical study of an oil painting on plywood board depicting a geometric woodland scene. This research was conducted as part of the Painting Pairs Project (2025-6) at the Courtauld Institute of Art, London. While the painting is unsigned, the private owners proposed possible identification as Paul Nash's *Wood Interior*, 1919. Plausibility of this attribution, title and date are central to this study. Further questions are raised by an additional concealed composition on the board reverse, and the possibility of an artist original frame. Stylistic analysis was accompanied by technical examination to determine materials used and techniques applied. Drawing comparisons to Nash's known works and documented practice, this resulted in improved understanding of likely attribution and date, and of the relationship between each identified intervention. Findings contribute to strengthening the proposed attribution to Paul Nash, most convincingly through commonalities in paint application and manipulation. Stylistic analysis and material identification shift likely dating beyond 1919, and with this, the proposed *Wood Interior*. With art historical and provenance research not providing an alternative identification, this study culminates in the recommended title of *Unknown Woodland Scene*, attributed to Paul Nash, with proposed dating of c.1924-30.