
When repairing marble, selecting an optimum adhesive can often be a difficult task for conservators. Understandably, reversibility and strength are two important characteristics often sought when choosing an adhesive. However, some characteristics of equal importance, like fatigue, are usually overlooked because of the lack of published research. This thesis attempts to add to the scarce body of knowledge by evaluating the fatigue behavior of two common types of synthetic adhesives used in conservation: thermoplastics and thermosettings.

Completed in conjunction with the design for the treatment of Tullio Lombardo’s Adam at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, this project compared the strengths of both fatigued and unfatigued samples of Vermont marble repaired with six different types of adhesives or adhesive systems.

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