

# THE MAYFAIR TIMES

## 2000 *Art of the Restorer*

It is a sad but true fact that paintings can get damaged for one reason or another and so it becomes necessary to send them to a restorer. One such person is Simon Gillespie whose elegant studio in Albemarle Street has the air of an English country home rather than that of commercial premises in central London.

Simon has some twenty-four years experience as a conservator and restorer and undertakes the restoration of paintings of all periods, whether on canvas or panel as well as frescoes and works in tempera.

Nowadays conservation and restoration are much more scientific processes than in earlier times and it is a matter of policy for Simon that in any work done he should endeavour to take work back as far as possible to the artist's original intention and he always avoids the covering of any original paint. In some cases this can mean the removal of any later overpainting or additions which may have been added to the work in question. Since the life of a canvas is short than the paint layer on it, it is sometimes necessary to line the back of the picture with new canvas so as to properly support the painted surface once again. But as Simon says, "The art of the restorer is knowing when to stop."

In addition to his work as a restorer Simon also acts as a consultant and gives advice to both private and corporate clients on potential purchases. He will also help clients form collections or help them find suitable additional works.