

# **Technical Studies in Ancient Greek Painting and Polychromy: From Scientific Investigation to Archaeological Interpretation**

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## ***Abstract***

Technical studies in the field of ancient painting and polychromy aim at elucidating our understanding regarding composition and the various uses of colours in antiquity that served to produce either figural paintings or polychromy on a varied range of artifacts. The increasing number of newly excavated material, as well as the publication of old finds, has opened up new fields of investigation of both ancient Greek painting and polychromy from an art historical and a technical perspective, allowing us to retrace the history of painting traditions in ancient Greece, from prehistory to the Hellenistic times. This paper discusses the results of recent analytical investigations on ancient Greek painting materials and offers a brief historical overview of their uses. Problems regarding the discoloration of the original paint layers caused by the weathering and ageing of pigments and binders are also underlined.