

SFMOMA Rauschenberg Research Project: Conservation Document

Conservation report and images related to Cranmer Art Conservation's treatment of Robert Rauschenberg's *Erased de Kooning Drawing* (1953), 1988. Courtesy Dana Cranmer

Erased de Kooning Drawing (1953) was originally mounted overall onto a backing board, most likely to strengthen the paper and facilitate the erasure of the de Kooning drawing. Decades later, as acid from the board threatened to migrate and discolor the attached drawing paper, Rauschenberg brought the work to a conservator to remove the mount.

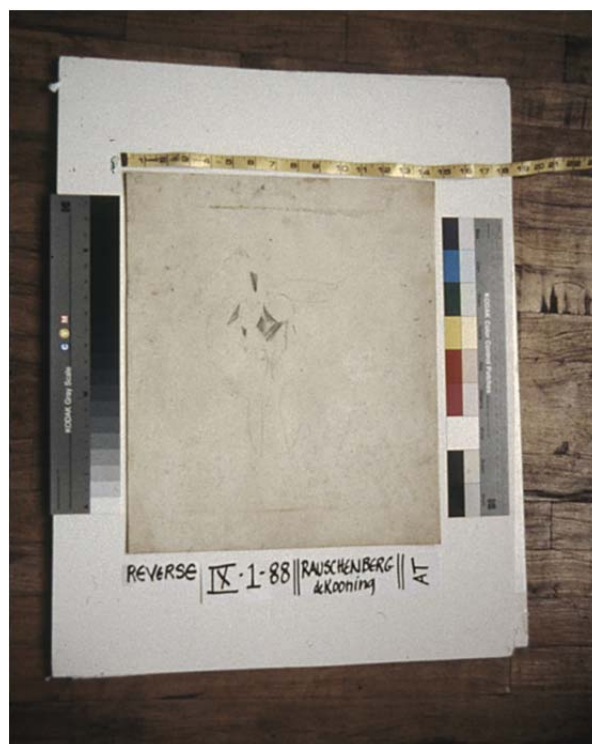
The piece was laid face down on a glassine-covered light box as a visual aid in the removal process. Each layer of the backing board was methodically delaminated and removed using a metal spatula. This delicate, time-consuming treatment was done without the use of moisture.



Verso of *Erased de Kooning Drawing*
with mount partially removed



Conservator from Cranmer Art Conservation removing the mount from
Erased de Kooning Drawing



Willem de Kooning's untitled drawing revealed on the verso of
Erased de Kooning Drawing