

Document Examination Consultants Inc.

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Forensic Report

File No. 1834/07

Re: Norval Morrisseau Signature Comparison

You have asked me to examine signatures and accompanying hand printing on two paintings reportedly produced by Norval Morrisseau. The actual paintings examined are itemised below. In each instance the signatures and hand printing in question are found on the reverse side of the canvas and appear in the upper right panel. Signatures and writings are produced with a paintbrush and ink. Given the limitations of signing one's name and hand printing titles with a paintbrush, due consideration was paid to the potential differences that might arise between such signings and those done with a normal pen. For comparison purposes I have been provided with three letters: one addressed to Dear Sussana and dated December 30 1968; one addressed to Dear Mrs. S. McLeod and dated Jan. 15 1965. The third is a photocopy of a portion of a letter beginning with the words "So I will close" and is undated. Also provided were an autographed book entitled "The Art of Norval Morrisseau" and original signatures in a set of prints titled "The French Print", of which there were six sample signatures.

Exhibits

002-a: A 147cm x 57cm canvas with a yellow background – see photos 1 and 2.

002-b: A 144cm x 54cm canvas with a yellow background – see photos 3 and 4.

Examinations Conducted

1. Macroscopic analysis of the 002-a & b questioned signatures and printing.
2. Comparison of the 002-a & b questioned signatures and printing with the specimen material.

Methods and Observations

1. As stated earlier, the signatures and hand printed information have been executed with a paintbrush and ink. As such the movements are somewhat more simplistic and elementary than one would expect to find in a normal cursive signature executed with a pen or pencil. Consideration was given to the influence of the writing instrument and surface (canvas) in the comparison that was conducted. Some portions are partially missing due to smudging, under-inking or gradual removal of portions of the ink. As such, certain characteristics in the signatures can no longer be assessed.
2. A comparison was made between the 002-a & b questioned signatures and the specimen signatures / hand printing. This analysis involved an assessment of features including writing development and style; alignment; connecting strokes; degree of angularity and roundness within letterforms; initial and terminal movements; letter design; location of connections and disconnections; proportions; relative letter size; slope and spacing. A determination was made as to whether each characteristic found in the questioned signatures and hand printing falls within the parameters of natural variation seen within the specimens. The comparison disclosed the following:

002-a: Some similarities and other features that have not been accounted for. Several structures could not be assessed as they are too faint and indistinct for comparison purposes.

002-b: Numerous similarities and a few features that have not been fully accounted for. Certain structures could not be assessed as they are too faint and indistinct for comparison purposes.

Conclusions

1. Based on the materials provided, I have been unable to determine whether or not the writer of the specimen material wrote the questioned signature and accompanying hand printing on 002-a.
2. In my opinion there is strong support for the view that the author of the specimen material wrote the questioned signature on 002-b. An opinion cannot be rendered with regard to the accompanying hand printed detail due to a lack of comparable letters and numerals.

Comments

1. Efforts were made, using infrared excitation and graphics software applications, to enhance the faint structures within the two questioned signatures. Little improvement was achieved using these techniques.

Disposition of Documents

1. All documents are being returned in person.

Prepared by:



Brian Lindblom, B.A., FSSocDip
Forensic Document Examiner

Photo 1

Signature area on the reverse side of the painting 002-a canvas



Photo 2

Portions of the 002-a painting.



Photo 3

Signature area on the reverse side of the painting 002-b canvas.

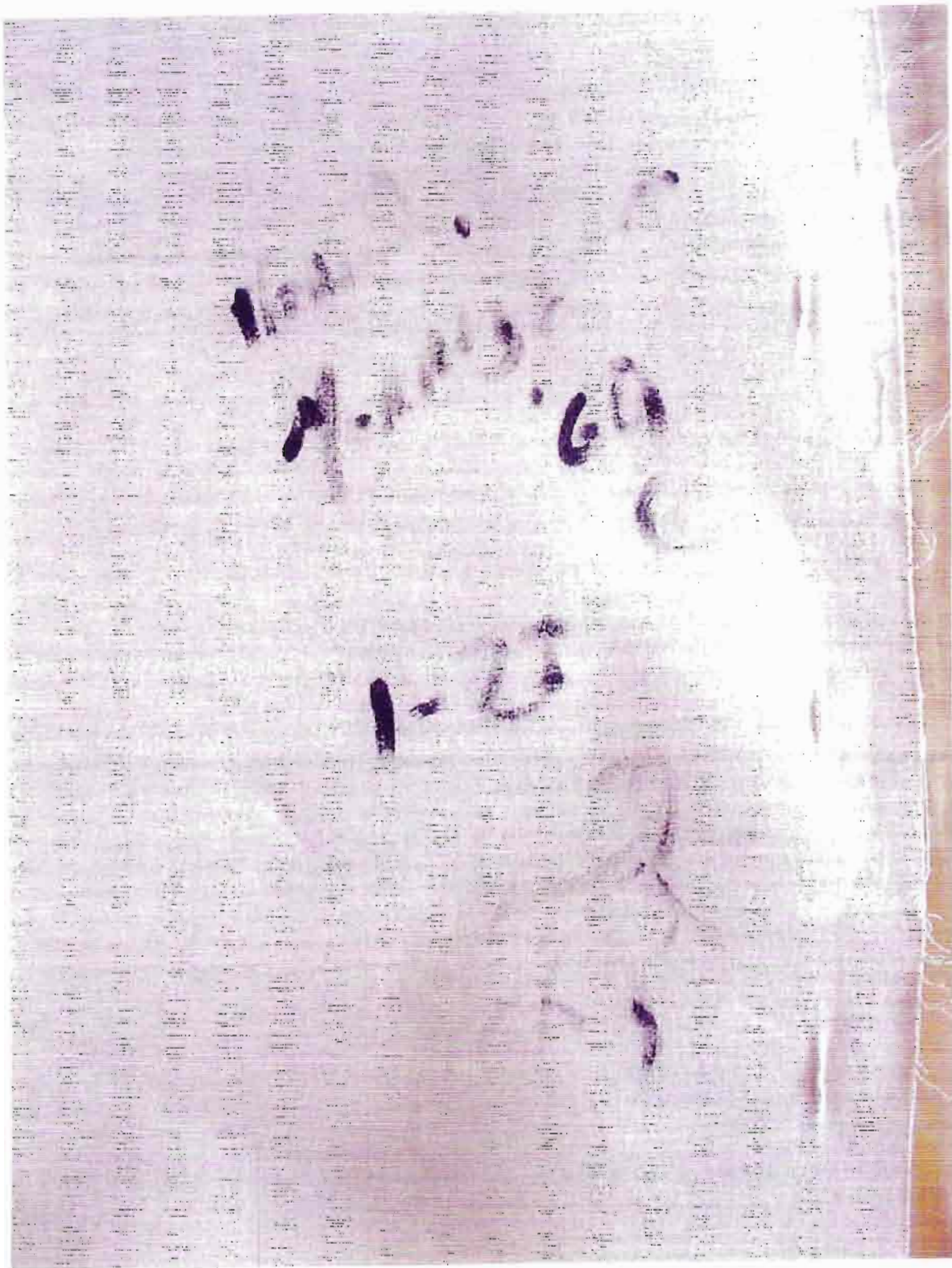


Photo 4

Portions of the 002-b painting



