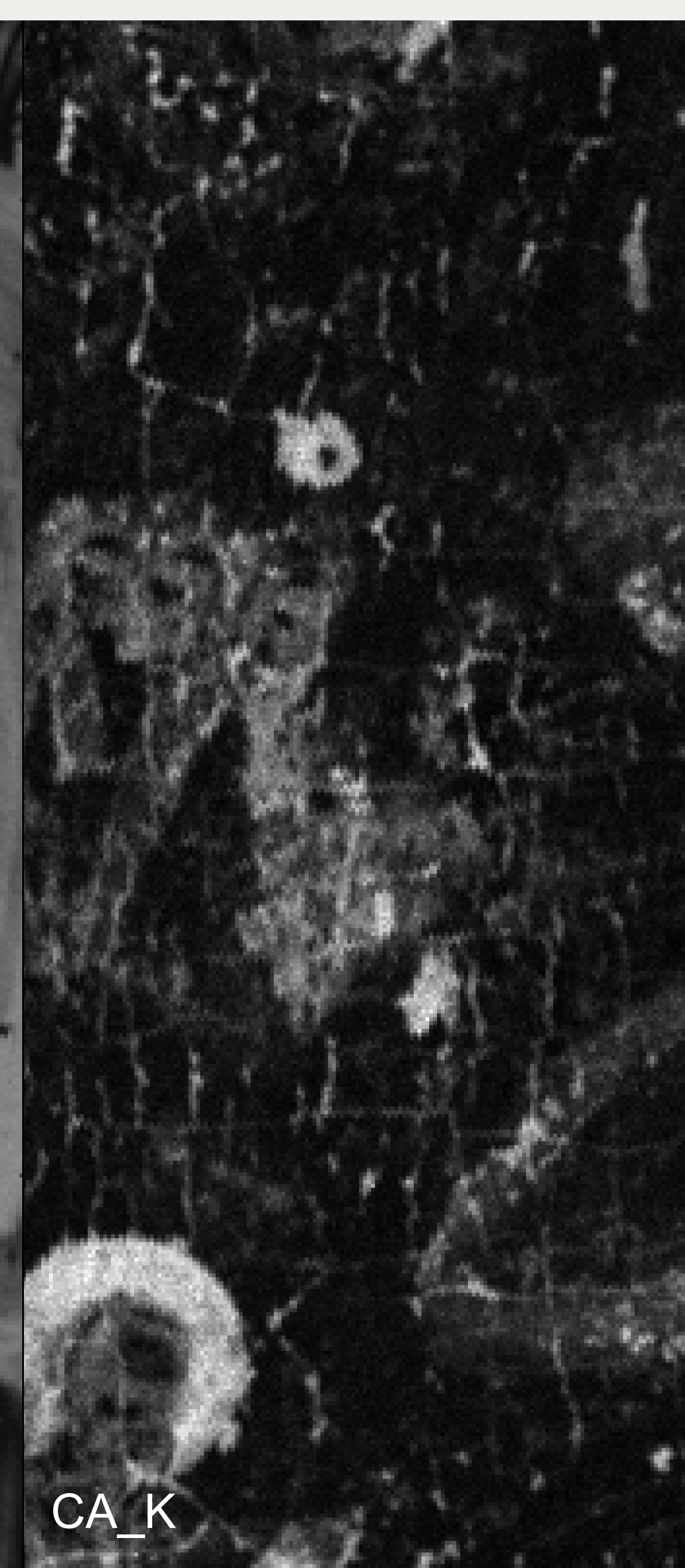


TRACING THE MATERIALITY OF BYZANTINE ICONS

PIGMENTS, TECHNIQUES AND NARRATIVE



APAC Labs supports the integrated technical and art historical study of Cypriot icons. As both artworks and objects with religious significance and ritual purpose, Byzantine and post-Byzantine icons reflect the aesthetic, religious and cultural values of the communities for which they were created. Our researchers have established unique methodologies that take into account the ritual significance of the icons we work with, employing a non-invasive approach that includes technical photography, digital microscopy, infrared reflectography (IRR), and X-ray fluorescence (XRF). Recent findings from our study of Cypriot icons include the characterization of pigments and the historical artist's palette from icons in Dyrenia, and the identification of an artist portrait in multiple narrative scenes in a hagiographic vita icon of St. John Lampadistis. The data gathered from these icons offer insights into the artistic motivations of icon painters, allowing us to further investigate the tangible and intangible cultural heritage in Cyprus.



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