A **wayang kulit** (a shadow puppet made of hide) is ‘a tool used in a theatrical performance comparable to a musical instrument’:

‘The wayang puppet outside performance is ... incomplete. It becomes complete only in performance when the puppet is given voice, when it is made to move and behave somewhat like a human being.’

**Preliminary investigation**
- Documentation and condition assessment: [hide] substrate rigid and distorted, cracking / flaking and extensive loss of surface decoration.
- Materials characterisation using ultraviolet (UV) fluorescence and x-ray fluorescence (pXRF): extensive barium and zinc, elements indicative of colour only in black and ‘gold’, no hazardous heavy metals.
- Literature review.

**Should the wayang be treated?**
- Cultural appropriateness.
- Condition incompatible with use (cost-benefit).
- Significance and future research.
- Causes of deterioration.
- Success of similar treatments.

**Treatment aim:** stabilisation of the flaking paint film:
1. Retain original surface decoration; and,
2. Handling and performance.

**Dry / wet surface cleaning**
- Risk of removing evidence of manufacture / use, further fracture / loss of surface decoration.
- Risk adhering non-original material affecting aesthetic integrity, preservation.

**Humidification / flattening**
- Poor results in similar treatments; risk fracturing for performance, /loss of paint by pressing or tension drying.
- Clarity of incisions cause of flaking, better adhesion.

**Consolidation**
- Stabilisation of unwanted materials, disruption / damage to paint film.

**Testing**
On a scale 0-3 (fail, poor, medium, good):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Surface</td>
<td><strong>FAIL</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Colour/gloss</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dentations / speckle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adhesion</td>
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**Implementation**
- 25:25:50 Lascaux® JunFunori (1%) / Talas® Sturgeon Glue (7%) / deionised water, applied by taklon round brush (5/0) with 100% ethanol pre-wetting.

**Further treatment?**
- Surface cleaning; stabilisation of threads.

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