
PROTECTING YOUR INVESTMENT PROTECTING YOUR ENCAUSTIC ARTWORK

Your encaustic painting is made of beeswax, damar resin; that make it harder, pigments as other materials over mahogany primed wood. This technique well-known as Encaustic wax Painting, which dates back to ancient Greece. Beeswax is the oldest known pigment binder. Encaustic literally means "Burning in". It started over 2 millennia ago.

GUIDELINES TO PRESERVE YOUR ENCAUSTIC

- People often asks "Will it melt?". The melting point of wax is between 160-180 degrees Fahrenheit, so if your paintings are melting your house is likely on fire.
- It would take extreme heat to harm a encaustic painting, but you wouldn't want to put *any* fine art in direct sunlight.
- Is important makes an important distinction between *sunlight* and *daylight*. The latter *no* harm comes to the work.
- Don't hang your encaustic anywhere that receives *direct sunlight* and *close art lighting*, wax. As with any fine art, hanging or displaying the work in a hot or cold window filled hallway is not the best way to preserve the longevity of the work. Direct sunlight fades and erodes most art whether it is an encaustic piece or something else. Encaustic pieces want to be hung indoors, and like any artwork, kept in safe locations. The encaustic paint is stable in a range of approximately 40-110°F. If your painting has encountered to more heat and the paint has soften and become more susceptible to strachtes, on the other hand, encaustics should not be subjected to temperatures below 40 degrees.
- *Don't put* your encaustic *behind glass*. It could bring about as greenhouse effect to your painting.
- Avoid contact with sharp objects including fingernails as the surface of the painting is susceptible to scratching. Scratches cannot totally be removed without the artist's intervention and minor scratches are best left alone. In the case of big pieces I made, due to textured surface,a small scratch could look as part of the piece, depends where the scratching was made.
- Be aware that for during the first year or so surface of the painting will develop a natural whitish dust known as "Bloom". Some people like the surface to age gracefully, others like the shine of a newly made piece, thus, wipe with a soft, lint-free damp rag to dust and polish with any soft, dry, lint-free cloth to bring out the luminosity of the painting, Using small circular motions with light pressure. *Never* use turpentine, alcohol or aggressive liquids.

- When transporting your encaustic painting, the piece *must be* wrapped well. Your encaustic artwork the surface is subject to scratching and dents – be careful. *Do not* put heavy items on top of the surface of the work. Treat the art gently, and the piece will remain as beautiful as the day you purchased it. During transportation, keep the work wrapped in wax paper or glazine and add an additional layer of paper or newsprint, focus on the edges, covered by a bubblewrap. Or, for a major protection, wrap the work well in wax paper and bubblewrap face the bubbles out, rather than against the painting (3 thicknesses, focus on the edges). For a major move, do the same aforementioned and add a box. Encaustic artwork I made does not has the overhang that develops as layers of wax down the sides in order to avoiding that often overhang breaks off, taking a chink of the surface with it.
- *Do not* leave it in your car for extended periods as heat buildup on a hot day could begin to melt the painting. Extreme cold can be almost as bad, as wax may separate from the braced panel.
- If you prefer frame your encaustic, first of all covered surface in wax paper and then with bubblewrap covering cradles, holding with adhesive type.

ADVANTAGES OF ENCAUSTIC PAINTING

- Encaustic paintings are *durable against*: acids, moisture, atmospheric gases, dirt, mildew and fungus. It also *don't* attracts insects to feed on
- Encaustic paintings do not need a glass cover or a protective top coating.
- There is also *no* fading or flaking.
- Luminosity and durable color that does not become dark upon time.

ENJOY YOUR ENCAUSTIC PAINTING , ENJOY YOUR INVESTMENT!

Based on the well-known book: “The Art of Encaustic Painting” by Joanne Mattera.
Amie McCarron. Encaustic Painting. website

If you want to know about the History of Encaustic: ENCAUSTIC and THE FAYUM PORTRAITS