

Lab 2: Paint Making

Lab Assignment / 20 pts

OVERVIEW

This assignment asks you to reflect on your experience of making paint in the lab. It asks you to support your answers with photos from the lab activity.

In order to complete this assignment, you will need:

1. This assignment document (Lab2_Assignment.docx)
Please insert all your answers directly in this file, save it, and upload your completed assignment to the submission portal in Canvas.
2. Photos from your experience of paint making in the lab.
3. Internet access so that you can search for basic answers using:
 - CAMEO: Conservation & Art Materials Encyclopedia Online (<https://cameo.mfa.org/>)

OBJECTIVES

- Use art conservation resources to understand the properties and uses of egg yolk, egg white, linseed oil, and walnut oil as paint binders.
 - Consider how different binders affect the mulling process.
 - Consider how the mulling of pigments, paint consistency, and specific combinations of pigment and binder affect the application and appearance of paint.
 - Reflect on how paint making affects your understanding of art history.
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Your name:

Your lab partner's name:

Which pigment did you work with?

PART 1: BINDERS (5 PTS)

1. Using the search feature of Conservation & Art Materials Encyclopedia Online ([CAMEO](#)), navigate to the entry on “egg.” The entry describes that egg is used in two areas of art making. What are they? **(2 pts)**
 2. Still using CAMEO, find the entry for “linseed oil.” Read the description and describe two properties that you think make it useful as a binder for paint. **(2 pt)**
 3. Still using CAMEO, find the entry for “walnut oil.” Where was this a popular binding medium? **(1 pt)**
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PART 2: MULLING (7 PTS)

1. What did you notice as you mulled your pigment in egg? Which part of the egg did you use (0.5 pt)? Try to describe specific details/stages of your mulling experience (2 pts). Use at least two photos to help make your point (0.5 pt). You might choose to describe what made it easy/difficult, what the sensations were like (rough, smooth, crunchy), the techniques you used or found effective, etc. **(3 pts)**
 2. What did you notice as you mulled your pigment in oil? Which type of oil did you use (0.5 pt)? Try to describe specific details/stages of your mulling experience (2 pts). Use at least two photos to help make your point (0.5 pt). You might choose to describe what made it easy/difficult, what the sensations were like (rough, smooth, crunchy), the techniques you used or found effective, etc. **(3 pts)**
 3. Compare your experience of mulling in egg and oil. Which would you prefer to work with and why? **(1 pt)**
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PART 3: PAINTING AND HANDLING (4 PTS)

1. What did you notice as you applied the various paint samples to the card? Were some binders and pigments easier to apply than others? Describe specific samples. **(2 pts)**

2. Include a photo of your completed sample card (0.5 pt). What do you notice about the colors and their behavior in various media? How do the binders affect the pigment color? (1.5 pt) Describe specific samples. **(2 pts)**
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PART 4: REFLECTION (4 PTS)

3. What did you learn from this lab? Discuss three specific insights and their significance for your understanding of art history. **(3 pts)**
4. What questions do you have about the lab activity, historical paint making, or paint media in art history? Formulate at least one questions and explain your motivation for asking it. **(1 pt)**