**Encaustic**

The medium, technique or process of painting with molten wax (mostly beeswax), resin, and pigments that are fused after application into a continuous layer and fixed to a support with heat. This achieves a lustrous enamel appearance. Greek artists were painting with encaustic as long ago as the 5th century BCE. The Roman historian Pliny, who wrote in the 1st century CE, tells us it was being used for the painting of portraits and scenes of mythology on panels, for the coloring of marble and terra cotta, including on architecture, and for work on ivory (probably the tinting of incised lines).

Perhaps the best known of all encaustic work are the Fayum funeral portraits painted in the 1st through 3rd centuries CE by Greek painters in Egypt. A portrait of the deceased, painted either in the prime of life or after death, was placed over the person's mummy as a memorial. These are the only surviving encaustic works from ancient times. Over the intervening centuries, encaustic was overtaken by many other types of paint - including tempera, oil, and acrylic paints - each of which was cheaper, faster, and easier to work. Artists experimented with encaustic in the 18th and 19th centuries, but it wasn't until the 20th century that its use has really revived.

Only with the availability of portable electric heating devices for the melting of the wax has the use of encaustic become sufficiently accessible. Encaustic has become so versatile indeed that many contemporary painters consider it an attractive painting medium again. Modern painters who have used encaustic include Robert Delaunay, Antoine Pevsner, Diego Rivera, and Jasper Johns. Once applied to a surface, encaustic paint doesn't need to dry. Instead, it needs to cool. Because it cools in minutes, additional coats can be added almost immediately. Once its surface has cooled, encaustic paint presents a permanent finish, and yet the painting can be revised and reworked at any time.

Encaustic can be laid on in delicately thin glazes or super thick encrusted impastos. It can produce satisfying results whether applied with painstaking precision or with flamboyant spontaneity. It can be carved, shaped and molded - built to high or low relief. Its adhesiveness makes it an excellent collage medium that can be impregnated with a wide variety of other materials.

The surface quality of encaustic paint can be left roughly textured, or given a matte, semi-gloss, or glossy enamel-like finish. Encaustic painting does not require solvents of any kind. As a result, a number of health hazards are reduced or eliminated. The term "encaustic" can also refer to a painting made in this medium

**Task 2. Decide if the following statements are true or false. Correct the wrong ones.**

1. For encaustic painting pigments are fixed to a support with a cooler.

2. Encaustic has recently been discovered by Italians.

3. Encaustic was followed by tempera, oil and acrylic paints.

4. Once applied to a surface, encaustic paint needs little time to cool.

5. Encaustic doesn't bear any additional working.

6. Encaustic can be laid on in either thin glazes or thick impastos.

7. The surface quality of encaustic painting should never be left roughly textured but given a glossy finish.

**Task 3. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate prepositions**

1. To achieve a better result, apply the glue … both surfaces.
2. It is not to my taste to experiment … hairstyle.
3. We laid the grapes … racks to dry.
4. The speaker referred … his notes repeatedly.
5. He fixed the lamp … the wall with a couple of screws.
6. We use this room … keeping all trash.

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**Task 4. Translate into English:**

Енкаустика - восковий живопис, що виконується гарячим способом. Техніка енкаустики була створена у V ст. до н. е. у Давній Греції та стала однією з найбільш міцних та довготривалих. Розігріті фарби (віск, смоли, олія, пігмент) наносились на розігріту основу, після фарбування зверху картини знову проходили розігрітим шпателем, тоді фарби змішувались і надійно прилипали до поверхні.

Воскові фарби поступово заміщували темперою, таким чином техніку енкаустики втрачали. Сучасні художники намагаються працювати у техніці енкаустики, але до цього часу техніка ще повністю не відновлена, тому картини нашого часу дуже відрізнються від тих, що залишились з давніх часів.