

TECHNIQUES IN EGG TEMPERA

Some ideas and hints when painting with egg tempera.

- The colors cannot be blended like oil paints because egg tempera dries too quickly- it cannot be manipulated in the same way.
- Color transitions have to be carried out by linear rather than broad pictorial means, especially by hatching and crosshatching, executed with round sable brushes. Since the egg medium dries so fast, repeated overpaints can follow one another in quick succession.
- The material does not lend itself to Impasto painting (a heavy application of paint).
- The underpainting should be kept in predominately light colors.
- You can glaze any color over any other color as long as it produces a combo you like.
- It is often advisable to glaze a warm color over cool or vice versa.
- Tempera dries almost immediately, can be scraped down very easily, and can be built up in ways which would be technically dangerous in most other media. It therefore offers great flexibility of technique.
- Hand-made tempera gives a wider and more personal choice of colors.
- Once dry the paint becomes water-insoluble and highly resistant to even strong paint solvents.