

Pigment to Paint...

Once you've got your pigment you can turn it in to paint. Paint is essentially created from three main ingredients: a tinting agent (colour/pigment), a binder (glue), and a solvent (something to thin the binder and tinting agent).

The tinting agent is the pigment that you have; this can be taken from a number of sources such as rocks, plants and animals and will give the desired colour to your final paint. The only colour I can think of that will be affected by the binder is the use of white pigment with an off colour binder. White is easily influenced by colour and will take on some of the characteristics of the bindings colour. i.e. egg yolk and oyster shell white will result in a cream paint.

The binder will provide the main body of the paint and will act as a substance that will hold the ingredients to the surface you are working on. Organic binders work as a type of glue, utilising the presence of proteins to act as the binding agent to hold everything together. The protein as with its' presence and use in most things allows the pigment to bind to itself and to the surface being worked on (binding to the proteins present in the surface), very early painters were known to use blood as a binder as it contains just enough protein to act as a binder. Other binders of this type include, egg yolk, oil and animal glues. Synthetic Binders use thermoplastics and acrylic glues as a binding agent. These work differently to the organic binders as the thermoplastics are able to invade the painting surface as a liquid and then bind integrated in to the fibres as they harden, making the surface part of the plastic.

Egg Tempera...

1—Separate your egg yolk from egg white, keeping the egg yolk.

2—Mix pigment in to your egg yolk until you get a thick consistency that's not too dry (using a palette knife)

3—Add water to this mixture until it reaches a consistency that you're happy to work with..

