

WHAT IS ENCAUSTIC ARTWORK?

ENCAUSTIC is a wax-based paint medium composed of beeswax, resin and pigment which is applied in layers to an absorbent surface in a molten state. Once applied, it is reheated to fuse the paint to the surface.

The word 'encaustic' comes from the Greek word *enkaustikos* meaning "burning in", referring to the process of fusing the paint. This form of painting is over 2,000 years old and has been gaining a resurgence in recent years. The [Fayum Mummy Portraits](#) are the best known of all encaustic works.

Artist **Lisa-Maj Roos** combines her unique painterly style with beeswax and damar resin resulting in stunning, colourful encaustic works that will last a lifetime.

CARE OF YOUR ENCAUSTIC ARTWORK

Treat an encaustic painting as you would any fine art. Always use care hanging, transporting or storing a painting.

1. **Consistent temperature.** Hang and store at normal room temperatures. **Avoid extreme hot and cold temperatures.** Extreme temperatures will damage encaustic paintings. Keep from freezing and do not hang artwork by a woodstove or other heat source. Do not leave it in your car.
2. **Avoid direct sunlight.** Keep all artwork out of direct sunlight.
3. **Shipping or transporting a painting.** When packing encaustic art for shipping, cover the face of the painting with parchment or glassine paper. Do not use bubble wrap directly on the front of the painting as it may leave an imprint on the surface.
4. **Framing.** Encaustic art does not need to be protected by glass. A floater frame is an attractive option that also protects the edges of the painting from scratches, dents and chips. Works on paper may be framed under glass; however, ensure the glass is not in contact with the artwork.
5. **Varnishing.** Unlike traditional oil (even acrylic) paintings that have a final coat of varnish over the paint layers, encaustic paintings do not need to be varnished or oiled. Beeswax is impervious to moisture, which is one of the major causes of deterioration in painted artwork. Buffing encaustic art will give lustre and saturation to colour in just the same way varnish does.
6. **Encaustic medium cures for 6 to 12 months.** You may notice a slight "blooming" or cloudiness that is normal during the curing period. This is easily restored by buffing the piece *gently* with a soft, lint-free cloth or the warmth of your hand. **Care is needed when buffing near textural or three dimensional effects, including edges and "drips".** If the original sheen has become dull over time, it can be brought back by repeating the buffing process. This process will not remove the pigment.
7. **Dust.** Once an encaustic painting has fully cured and hardened it will repel dust.

⚠ Remember, encaustic is composed of wax. Although it is extremely durable, care still must be taken. Do not leave your encaustic piece near heat sources or in direct sunlight as it will melt. Extreme cold can also cause your encaustic piece to crack.