

CARING FOR YOUR ENCAUSTIC PAINTING

by Jessie Fritsch – Buzz in Art Studios

Encaustic paintings are durable and archival, but like all fine art, they need proper care. Here's what you need to know:

GENERAL CARE

- **Avoid direct sunlight.** Heat can soften the wax. Always check the surface—if it feels warm, move it to a cooler spot.
 - **Do not frame under glass.** Glass traps heat and can cause melting. Encaustic has damar resin, which naturally hardens and protects the surface over time.
 - **Edges are fragile.** Handle with care and avoid scratching the surface.
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TEMPERATURE & TRANSPORT

- **Safe range:** 40°F to 125°F
 - **Below 40°F:** Wax becomes brittle and may crack if dropped.
 - **Above 125°F:** Wax softens and may shift.
 - **Transport tip:** Cover with wax paper, then cardboard or insulation. Unwrap at room temperature.
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BUFFING YOUR PAINTING

- Over time, your painting may develop a soft, cloudy film known as wax bloom—a natural process where the beeswax rises to the surface; simply buff with a soft cloth to restore its shine.
 - Buff when dull using a high-quality paper towel or a lint-free cloth (like a car detailing cloth).
 - Only buff when the painting is cool (below 75°F).
 - Newly finished paintings may dull again after buffing—this stops after the wax cures (up to 6 months).
 - Buff monthly to maintain shine, remove dust, and bring out color.
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LONGEVITY

Encaustic is one of the most durable painting mediums—proven by 2,000-year-old Fayum portraits. It resists moisture, mildew, insects, and won't yellow with age.

QUESTIONS?

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