

TECHNICAL BULLETIN



FINE ART GLOSSARY OF TERMS

The terms below are commonly used when referring to fine art media.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

ABRASION: Wear damage caused by one surface rubbing against another surface.

ACID-FREE: Material manufactured in such a way that active acids are not included or eliminated. A paper that has a neutral pH of 6.5 to 7.5.

ALPHA CELLULOSE: The purest form of cellulose of the three cellulose classifications. Alpha cellulose has the longest and most stable chemical chain, creating the longest and strongest paper making fibers.

ARCHIVAL QUALITY PAPER: Paper that is acid-free, lignin free, and may be pH neutral or buffered with a pH 7 or higher.

BLEACHING: The process of whitening or lightening the color of a material by means of oxidation through the use of chemicals, such as chlorine. This process removes stains from paper, cloth, and wood products. In paper pulping bleaching removes the impurities and lignin.

CALCIUM CARBONATE: A chemical compound used as a filler in alkaline paper making, as a coating pigment and as a buffering agent.

CONSERVATION or MUSEUM QUALITY: Uses techniques that help protect against the effects of sunlight and pollutants that damage art. Archival mounting, hinging, and UV protective glass or acrylic are commonly used to increase the longevity of framed items.

COTTON LINTER or LINTER PULP: The short fibers that adhere to the cotton seed after ginning. Linter is cut from the cotton seed by mechanically removing the fuzzy lint on the seed after the long fibers for textile production has been removed.

GICLEE: (gee-clay) French for fine spray. Art produced using ink jet technology.

HINGING: A form of museum mounting that attaches the art with paper hinges to the board, the art hangs free, allowing it to expand and contract with humidity.

LIGNIN: A component of the cell walls of plants that occurs naturally along with cellulose. Lignin is largely responsible for the strength and rigidity of plants. Lignin's presence in paper is believed to contribute to chemical degradation, eventually causing yellowing and weakness, causing the paper to become brittle and unusable.

LINTER PULP: See cotton LINTER.

MOULD-MADE PAPER: Paper made by a slowly rotating machine called a cylinder mould that simulates the hand paper making process. Fibers become more randomly intertwined than in a machine-made paper, producing a strong, more flexible sheet.

OPTICAL BRIGHTENER or FLUORESCENT BRIGHTENER: A chemical additive to a paper-making finish that improves the apparent brightness of the product by the introduction of fluorescence.

PERMANENCE: A material which under specified conditions resists changes in any of its properties with the passage of time.

pH: Measure of the concentration of hydrogen ions in a solution.

STABILITY: The ability of paper to resist change in any of its properties when exposed to various conditions.

UV STABILIZER: Any chemical compound which, when mixed with a thermoplastic resin selectively absorbs UV rays.

YELLOWING: A gradual change from the original appearance of a pulp or a paper as a result of environment or age.

*Definitions were obtained from the www.artfacts.org website.

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