Naji Saker January 20, 2013

Egg Tempera

Egg tempera is a method of painting, which uses the egg yolk as a binder.

This method is permanent, fast drying, and very long lasting. The egg yolk has many fats and oils and as the tempera begins to dry it forms a polymer film that encases the pigments and makes them stick to the surface. The pigments are dispersed through out the egg and water mixture because of he emulsifiers in the egg yolk.

Egg tempera is found on early Egyptian sarcophagi decorations. It was also the main medium used for panel painting and illuminated manuscripts in the

Byzantine world and medieval and early
renaissance Europe. It was the primary panel
painting medium for almost all of the painters in
the medieval early renaissance period up till
about 1500. For instance Michelangelo's
surviving panel paintings are egg tempera. Oil
paints then after took over in popularity.



My experience with this project was enjoyable. It was cool making our own paints essentially. My favorite part about the egg tempera is the way it really keeps the colors rich and dries quickly to be able to add the needed coats and layers of color. It also made the topic more clear of how the binders work to make the paint turn out.