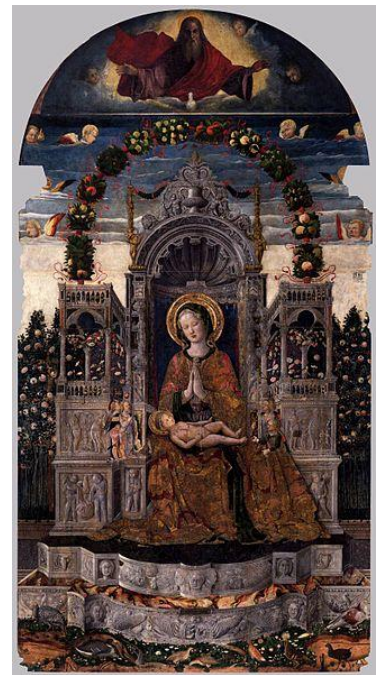


The Sunny Side of Art

By: Taylor Floyd

Eggs, however delicious they are to eat cooked are also very useful raw in paintings. Egg tempera paintings have been used for many centuries, but they were most popular during the 10th-12th centuries. During this time, egg yolks were mixed with various powdered pigments to create paints. Two of the components of egg yolks, lecithin and albumen, form an emulsion between themselves (one a soluble and the other an insoluble solution) creating a strong painting solution. The egg yolk acts as the vehicle for the pigments and when the paints are placed onto their canvas, the aqueous solution evaporates and the nonaqueous part of the egg yolk dries through a chemical reaction. The product is a water-based paint that naturally forms a tough film over the paint. Egg tempera paintings were replaced by oil paintings in the 1500's, a technique started by the Dutch.

Egg tempera paintings became popular in Europe during the Renaissance Period. During this time, many works of art were created using the egg tempera style of painting. One example of the egg tempera type of painting style is *Madonna and Child Enthroned*, which is shown to the right. This painting, which was created by Antonio Da Negroponte around the year 1455, portrays Mary holding Jesus as God watches over them. This painting was able to be kept well for so long because the natural caging that the egg tempera forms helps prevent chipping and sustain its colors.



In this lab, I created a piece of art that is particularly special to me. My inspiration for my project in this lab was my friend named Michael who is very near and dear to my heart. Because of this, I decided to create an egg tempera in the shape of his favorite soccer team and the best team in Europe (arguably the best in the world), Barcelona FC. His latest and greatest influence in my life was the rejuvenation of soccer in my life. I am so thankful for his motivation and support when it comes to the game but also the relationship that we have formed. If we weren't as close as we are, I don't think I would have the same passion for the game that I have now.

Madonna and Child Enthroned. Digital image. *Wikimedia Commons*. Wikipedia, 21 July 2011. Web. 3 Feb. 2013.