

# Fresco Painting

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Fresco painting is a method of painting where pigments are applied to still-wet plaster, and as the plaster fully dries the painting becomes a part of the rock. This technique is traditionally associated with murals, but it works just as well on a wall as it does on a smaller scale piece of tile. The lime plaster is just a paste of calcium hydroxide with water. The pigments are mixed with water and are painted on to the still wet plaster. Then as the plaster dries, the water evaporates and the carbon dioxide in the air reacts with the calcium hydroxide to form limestone, and the pigments are then trapped inside of the limestone surface. What is remarkable about this technique is it can only be successful when the pigments are applied at the correct time in the



plaster' s drying process. This means that the Sistine Chapel ceiling had to be painted one small section at a time, which is crazy to think about. Doing this project really increased the respect I had for Michelangelo and the other classical Renaissance artists.