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Barnett, Jr.

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[54] **ARTIST'S PALETTE**

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **206/1.7**, 117/155 UA, 312/31

[51] **Int. Cl.** **B44d 3/02**

[58] **Field of Search** 206/1.7, 1.8; 312/31, 31.01, 312/31.06; 117/155; 35/26

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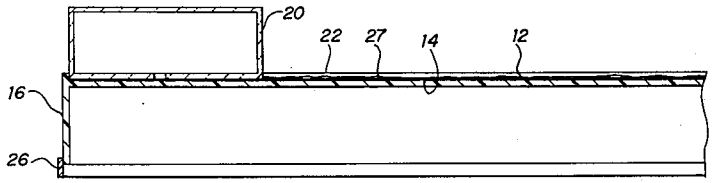
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Primary Examiner—William I. Price
Assistant Examiner—Allan N. Shoap
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Richards, Harris & Medlock

[57] **ABSTRACT**

An artist's palette is provided which maintains water-based colors in a fresh and workable condition while in use or in storage and includes a palette surface which supplies a controlled amount of moisture to colors deposited thereon. A specific structure includes a palette base member having a finely textured surface, and a liner for the textured surface which has a lower absorbent side in contact with the textured surface and an upper treated side which is water permeable but substantially impermeable to the water-based pigments which are applied thereto. Water supplied to the textured surface will pass between the surface and the liner by capillary action and furthermore will permeate the liner to provide moisture for water-based colors deposited on the upper treated surface.

11 Claims, 10 Drawing Figures



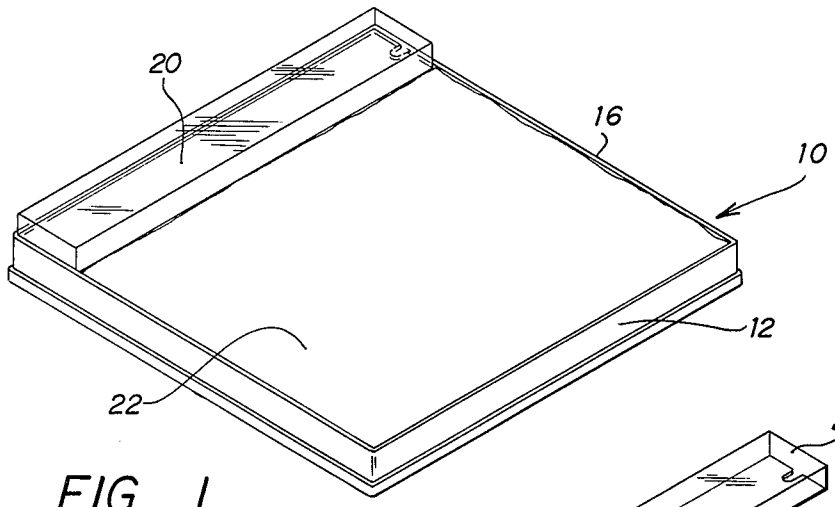


FIG. 1

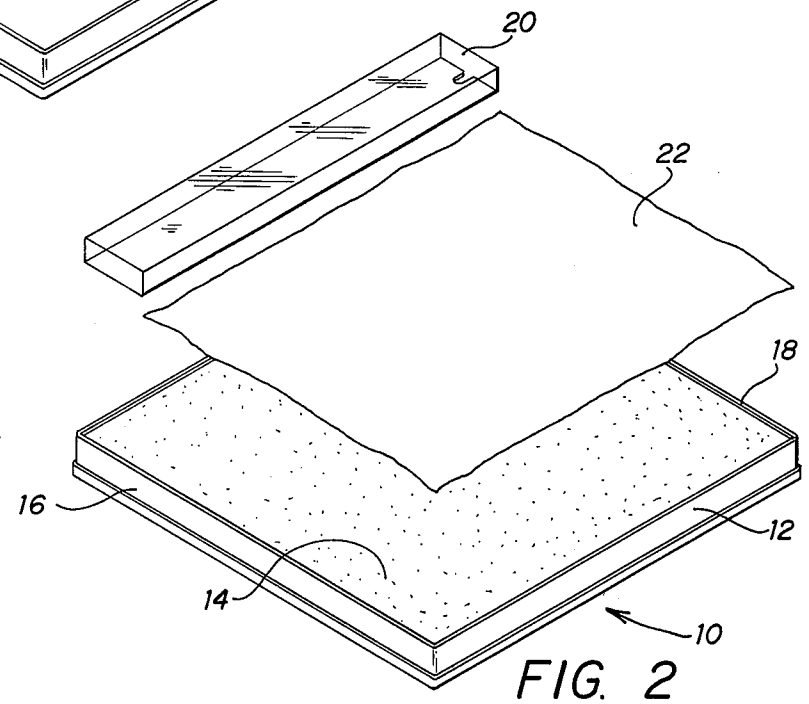


FIG. 2

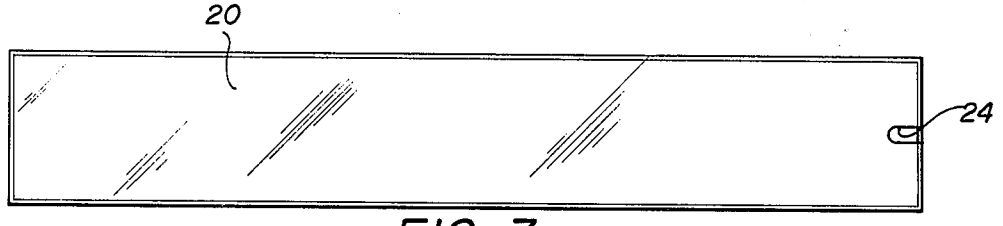


FIG. 3

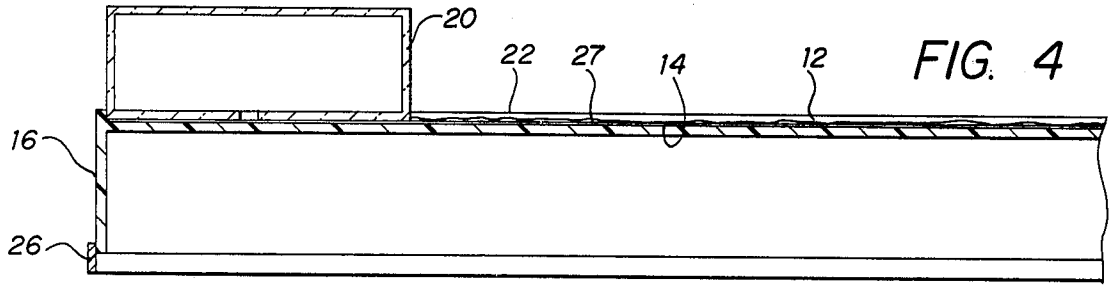


FIG. 4

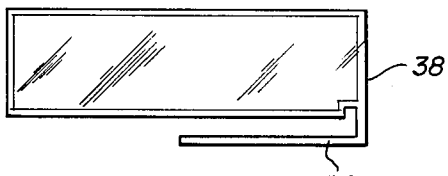


FIG. 7

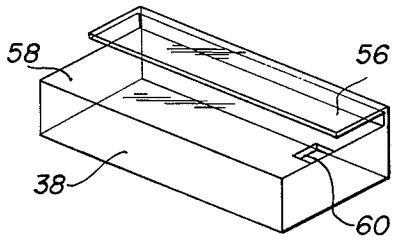


FIG. 8

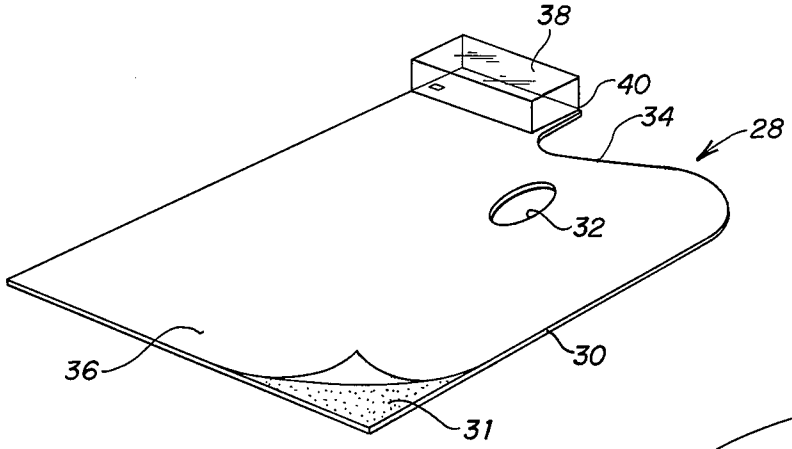


FIG. 5

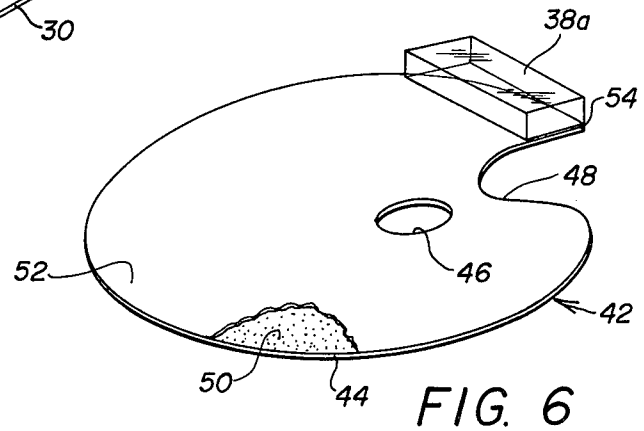


FIG. 6

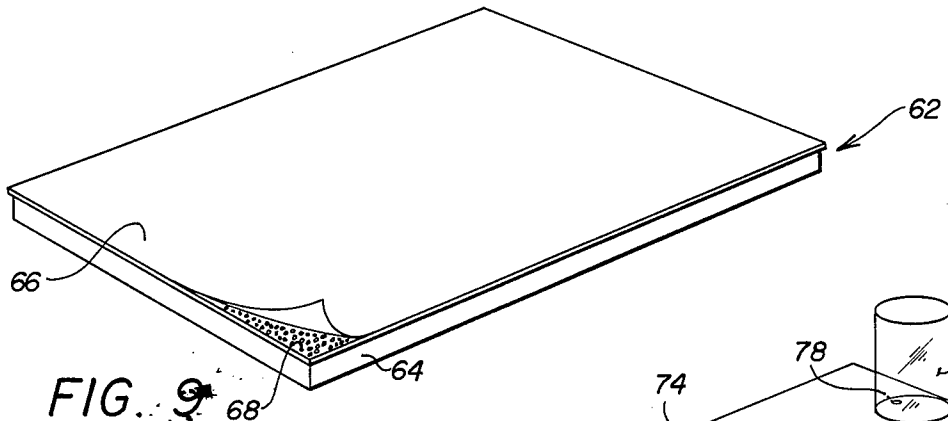


FIG. 9

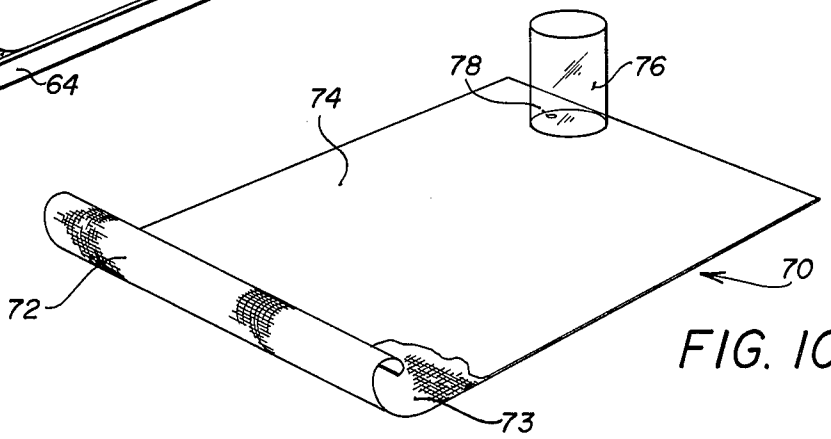


FIG. 10

ARTIST'S PALETTE

This invention relates to paint palettes. In another aspect, this invention relates to novel palettes for water-based colors which will maintain the colors in a moist condition on the palette's surface. Artists conventionally use palettes for blending colors as a means for maintaining a readily accessible supply of the desired colors while engaged in their painting activities. A problem which artists have faced when using water-based colors is that the colors will dry and harden on the palette if not utilized in a relatively short period of time.

Thus, it is necessary for an artist to either completely utilize water-based colors he places on the palette within a short period of time or endure wastage of the colors. For example, it has generally not been possible for an artist to prepare water based colors on a palette and allow the palette to set overnight before the colors are completely utilized. This drying problem is particularly severe when using the more rapidly drying acrylic-containing colors which will not resolubilize in water after they have dried. Generally, this rapid drying characteristic of acrylic colors is desirable on the art work, but has caused problems on the artist's palette. As a result, many artists do not use the acrylic colors.

One object of this invention is to provide a novel artist's palette which will protect water-based colors deposited thereon from drying.

Another object of this invention is to provide a novel palette means which will supply moisture to water-based colors deposited thereon in a controlled amount such that the quality of the color is not impaired and the colors will not migrate on the palette in an unwanted manner.

According to the invention, an artist's palette for water-based colors is provided which comprises a paint-receiving palette surface which is water permeable and substantially impermeable to color pigment and which will supply a controlled amount of water to artist's colors deposited thereon.

According to one embodiment of this invention, an artist's palette for water-based paints is provided which includes a flat substrate member having a finely textured water-receiving surface, and a water-permeable but substantially pigment-impermeable liner which fits over the finely textured water-receiving surface for receiving deposits of artist's colors thereon.

According to another embodiment of this invention, the artist's palette of said one embodiment further comprises a water reservoir means for supplying a controlled amount of water to the finely textured water-receiving surface of said flat substrate member.

According to a further embodiment of this invention, the finely textured water-receiving surface of said one embodiment comprises a porous substrate which retains water therewithin.

According to still another embodiment of this invention, a flexible artist's palette member is provided which comprises a woven water permeable textile material having a lower finely textured surface which is used in contact with any suitable water-impermeable flat substrate, and an upper water-permeable, pigment-impermeable surface liner for receiving artist's colors thereon.

This invention can be more easily understood from a study of the drawings in which:

FIG. **1** is a perspective view of a studio-type artist's palette of the subject invention;

FIG. **2** is an exploded view of the artist's palette of FIG. **1**;

FIG. **3** is a bottom plan view of the water reservoir for the palette shown in FIG. **1**;

FIG. **4** is a partial cross-sectional view of the palette of FIG. **1**;

FIG. **5** is a perspective view of another artist's palette of the subject invention which comprises a rectangular hand-held palette with thumb hole;

FIG. **6** is a perspective view of another hand-held palette of the subject invention which has a classic oval shape;

FIG. **7** is a side elevational view of a water reservoir of the embodiments shown in FIGS. **5** and **6**;

FIG. **8** is a bottom perspective view of the reservoir of FIG. **7**;

FIG. **9** is a perspective view of an artist's palette made in accordance with the subject invention which includes a water-retaining base pad; and

FIG. **10** is a perspective view of another embodiment of the subject invention.

All of the embodiments shown in the drawing include a palette surface means for depositing artist's colors thereon, which surface is substantially impermeable to the pigments of artist's water-based colors but, will supply moisture to such colors at a controlled rate and prevent the colors from drying and hardening. For example, the palettes of the subject invention can be utilized to maintain any water-based artist's color moist and workable such as acrylic colors, gouache, casein, poster colors, and water colors.

Now referring to the drawings, several embodiments of the invention will be described in detail.

Referring first to FIGS. **1–4**, a studio-type artist's palette **10** of the subject invention is shown. As shown in FIGS. **1** and **2**, the artist's palette **10** basically comprises a palette base member **12**, which includes a finely textured upper surface **14** supported by sidewalls **16**, and an upwardly extending lip **18** positioned around the periphery of finely textured surface **14**.

As shown in FIGS. **1** and **2**, water reservoir **20** fits along one side of surface **14** and liner **22** covers the majority of surface **14**. Liner **22** comprises a thin, flexible water-permeable, pigment-impermeable membrane which includes a water adsorbent bottom surface which rests upon finely textured surface **14**, and an upper color-receiving surface, which is water permeable but yet substantially impermeable to pigments in the artist's colors.

Water reservoir **20** comprises any suitably shaped enclosed reservoir having an opening **24**, on the bottom side thereof, as shown in FIG. **3**. Opening **24** is sufficiently small that the natural surface tension of the water will prevent water from spilling out of the reservoir **20** when the reservoir **20** is inverted and placed upon the upper finely textured surface **14** of base member **12**.

As shown in FIGS. **1**, **2** and **4**, the lower peripheral portion of sidewall **16** is offset vertically to form rim **26**. Rim **26** will allow several of the paint palette's **10** carrying liners **22** and water reservoirs **20** to be vertically stacked in a nested relationship.

Finely textured surface **14** provides a firm base support which will withstand both brush and palette knife manipulation. It is noted that the phrase "finely tex-

tured" as used in the scope of this invention to describe surface **14** means surfaces which are not smooth and flat as a mirror surface, for example, but are generally planar with a slightly roughened feel. Generally, the texture of surface **14** is equivalent to that of sandpaper, for example, ranging from fine to coarse, or woven fabric for example, ranging from fine broadcloth to canvas and in general includes a series of closely spaced and either randomly or non-randomly shaped slight protrusions which will enhance capillary action of water passing between surface **14** and the lower absorbent side of liner **22.** It is noted that palette base member **12** can be made of any suitable material such as rigid molded plastic. Finely textured surface **14** can be formed by molding operation, or can comprise a sheet material such as a roughened plastic or cloth-plastic laminate cemented in place on base member **12** as shown in FIG. **4.**

Liner **22** can conveniently comprise any water-permeable fibrous material, such as wet strength paper, for example. A suitable such paper for use as structural material for liner **22** includes No. 2 ground wood pulp paper which is commonly used as wallpaper. Any other suitable wet strength water-permeable paper can be used in the scope of this invention as liner **22** for paint palette **10.** The upper surface of liner **22** is treated with a water-permeable material which will resist permeation of the pigments in water-based artist's colors, such as acrylic colors, gouache, casein, poster colors and water colors.

Preferably, an aqueous polymeric emulsion is utilized for treating the upper surface of liner **22.** Any suitable aqueous polymer emulsion known in the art will dry to form a hard adherent deposit which is not resolubilized by water can be used in the coating composition for the treatment of the upper surface of liner **22.** Most preferably, the emulsion includes a white pigment, such as titanium dioxide to yield a uniformly white surface for blending colors thereupon. Generally, any aqueous polymeric latex which is normally used in paints and/or glues can be used in the scope of this invention. Suitable such latexes include the acrylic latexes, vinyl latexes and latexes containing mixtures and copolymers thereof, and the like. The most preferred coatings include the latexes of the acrylate resins which are polymers or copolymers of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, derivatives thereof, and esters thereof. The aqueous latex which is used to form the coating on liner **22** can conveniently comprise from about 9 to about 30 weight percent of the polymer which is preferably an acrylic resin, with the remainder being a mixture of pigment, such as titanium dioxide and the like, and a volatile carrier such as water which can contain minor amounts of alcohols or glycols or the like. Suitable such coating materials which have been used successfully in the practice of the subject invention include: white latex paint sold under the trademark of Vapex by Pratt and Lambert, which includes 36.1 weight percent pigment, 12 weight percent acrylic resin, and 51.9 weight percent volatile carrier (water); the white latex paint sold under the trademark of True Test Supreme by General Paint and Chemical Co., which includes 39.0 weight percent pigment, 12.2 weight percent acrylic resin, and 48.8 weight percent volatile carrier (water); and white latex paint formulations sold by Sears, Roebuck & Company under the trademark of Semi Gloss 7844 which includes 28.5 wt. % pigment, 19.8 wt. % acrylic resin, and 51.7 Wt. % volatile carrier (water) and the composition sold under the trademark of Latex Flat 8111A which has 40.9 wt. % pigment, 9.7 wt. % vinyl-acrylic resin, and 49.4 wt. % volatile carrier (water).

Generally, the upper surface of liner **22** is prepared by applying one uniform coat of the above-described white latex paint thereto and allowing it to dry and harden.

In the operation of the paint palette as set forth in FIGS. **1–4,** water reservoir **20** is initially filled with water and inverted on the finely textured surface **14** of base member **12.** In addition, liner **22,** which is preferably pre-moistened, is placed in its position over finely textured surface **14,** as illustrated in FIG. **1.** A suitable manner in which to position liner **22** over the finely textured surface **14** includes initially saturating the liner **22** on both sides, such as with a wet sponge or under a faucet. Next, for easier handling of the wet liner **22,** liner **22** can be rolled with the white side or the paint-receiving side up into a tight cylinder. Next, the textured surface **14** is liberally wetted by suitable means such as a sponge. After this, one edge of liner **22** can be aligned properly on textured surface **14** and liner **22** unrolled onto the palette's surface while pressing out all the air bubbles. Next, the water chamber **20** full of water is positioned with opening **24** in the lower position as illustrated in FIG. **1.** In this position, a thin continuous or discontinuous water layer **27** exists between textured surface **14** and the lower side of liner **22.** Water-based paints can then be deposited or mixed on the upper surface of liner **22.** As water evaporates from the upper surface of liner **22** and water-based paints deposited thereon, capillary action draws the water out of water chamber **20.** Thus, in this manner, any moisture loss due to evaporation is rapidly replaced. An occasional air bubble will enter water chamber **20** at the edge of opening **24** to replace water which has been drawn out through the capillary action.

The coating on the upper surface of liner **22** is not soluble when wet, but yet will conduct moisture from the underside of liner **22** at a controlled rate, thereby maintaining a constant degree of humidity at the surface. This controlled humidity at the liner surface prevents water-based colors which are placed thereon from drying out by evaporation of the water carrier therefor. Furthermore, the humidity level imparted to the upper surface of liner **22** is not so great as to cause the colors to become wetter. Furthermore, the layer on the upper surface of the liner **22** is substantially impermeable to the pigments within conventional water-base colors. Therefore, deposits of colors on the upper surface of liner **22** will neither permeate the liner **22** nor will they spread unwantedly over the surface of liner **22.** Furthermore, the coating on the upper surface of liner **22** protects the paper substrate from eroding under brush and palette knife manipulations. Thus, colors do not disperse into the surface. Furthermore, colors can be wiped off the upper surface of liner **22** with a damp sponge or cloth, or the like.

Several of the studio palettes illustrated in FIGS. **1–4** can be utilized simultaneously. Two or more of such palettes can be stored by stacking vertically in a nested arrangement such that the rim **26** of an upper palette **10** encircles the upper periphery of sidewall **16** of a lower palette **10** and the reservoir **20** of the lower palette fits within the interior of the upper palette. Thus, various color combinations can be formed on as many

of the palettes as desired to complete a particular painting. If work on the painting is interrupted, the palettes can merely be stacked in a nested arrangement as described above, and the colors thereon preserved so long as water is maintained within the reservoir **20** of each of the palettes.

Other embodiments of the subject invention are schematically depicted in FIGS. **5** and **6.** More specifically, FIG. **5** illustrates a rectangular hand-held palette **28** which is made in accordance with the subject invention and includes a base member **30,** which generally comprises a generally rectangular working surface which carries a thumbhole **32** and handgrip **34** adjacent one end thereof. The upper surface **31** of palette base member **30** is finely textured in a manner similar to surface **14** of palette **10,** which was illustrated in FIGS. **1–4** above. Liner **36** again, is a water-permeable pigment-impermeable liner, which can comprise the same construction material as described in relation to liner **22** above. Liner **36** has a shape which is substantially the same shape as that of palette base member **30** and extends under water reservoir **38** which is clamped onto the extending side portion **40** of palette base member **30,** as illustrated in the drawing.

FIG. **6** discloses another embodiment of this invention which includes another type of hand-held palette **42,** which has a classic oval shape. As illustrated, palette base member **44** has the shape of the classic oval hand-held style and comprises a thumbhole **46** and a handgrip **48.** The upper surface **50** of hand-held palette **42** again comprises a finely textured surface which is similar to surface **31** of palette **28** and surface **14** of palette **10,** as described above. Liner **52** is made of the same material as liner **36** of palette **28** and liner **22** of palette **10** but it has the shape of the classic oval hand-held palette. Again, a portion of liner **52** extends beneath water reservoir **38**a as it overlays portion **52** of palette base member **44.**

Water reservoirs **38** and **38***a* for hand-held palettes **28** and **42,** respectively, have the same basic construction, and water reservoir **38** is shown in detail in FIGS. **7** and **8.** As shown in FIG. **7,** which is a side elevational view of water reservoir **38,** and in FIG. **8,** which is a bottom perspective view of water reservoir **38,** clamp **56** extends substantially parallel to the bottom surface **58** at a spaced distance therefrom which is only slightly smaller than the thickness of the combination of palette base member **30** and liner **36,** or palette base member **44** and liner **52.** Aperture **60** is carried on the bottom side of water reservoir **38** and is of a sufficient size such that the natural surface tension of water prevents the water from spilling out when the reservoir chamber is inverted. Water reservoir **38** with the integrally attached clamp **56** can be made of any suitable material but is preferably made of a rigid plastic material.

While various embodiments of this invention can utilize a water reservoir to controllably supply water by capillary action in the manner described above to replenish water which has evaporated from the moist upper surface of the liner, FIG. **9** shows an embodiment of the subject invention which does not rely on a water reservoir such as reservoirs **38, 38***a* or reservoir **20** as shown in the drawing. As shown in FIG. **9,** palette **62** comprises a flat, rectangularly shaped body which includes a water-supplying palette base member **64** and a liner **66** of the character described in relation to the above embodiments. Palette base member **64** can comprise any rigid water absorbent material known in the art. For example, base member **64** can comprise a thick pad or porous absorbent paper, or a porous body of flexible foam material, such as a foamed polymeric material, e.g., poly urethane or foam rubber which preferably has open cells at least on the upper surface of the palette base member **64.** The bottom and sides of palette base member **64** can be treated or coated with water impermeable material. Palette **62** is utilized by initially supplying water to the upper surface **68** of palette base member **64** and uniformly distributing the water therein so that the proper absorption of water or retention within the open cells of the polymeric foam will occur. Thereafter, the premoistened liner **66** can be applied thereto and the palette utilized as described above for receiving and/or blending of artist's colors.

Still a further embodiment of the subject invention is schematically illustrated in FIG. **10.** More specifically, palette **70,** as illustrated in FIG. **10** comprises a flexible palette surface. Palette member **72** can comprise a flexible sheet of textured fabric which can include cotton fabric or a fabric made of artificial fibers which has had at least its upper finely textured surface **73** waterproofed. Liner **74** is made of the same material as the liners in the above embodiments and comprises a water-permeable-pigment-impermeable upper palette surface. Reservoir **76** is illustrated as a generally cylindrical shaped enclosed body having an aperture **78** at the lower end thereof which will supply water to liner **74** at a controlled rate. In the operation of palette **70,** palette member **72** is rolled onto any suitable rigid supported surface. Liner **74** is thoroughly wetted in the manner described above and placed onto palette member **72** and reservoir **76** can be positioned thereover. As a result, water will be supplied to the upper surface of liner **74** by capillary movement of water between the underside of liner **74** and the upper finely textured surface **73** of palette member **72.**

Thus, all of the embodiments of the subject invention provide a palette surface for the artist to deposit and blend water-based colors. However, once the colors are deposited on the surface of the palette, moisture is supplied from the underside thereof at a controlled rate, thereby maintaining a constant degree of humidity at the surface. The controlled humidity at the inner liner surface prevents colors which are placed on the palette from drying out. Furthermore, the humidity level is not so great as to cause the colors to become wetter. When the artist is through with the particular colors on the surface of the liner, they can be merely wiped off with a damp sponge. However, when a liner has become damaged or excessively dirty, it can be easily replaced with a new liner. The improved palette of the subject invention will allow the usage of the more modern water-based acrylic colors. Acrylic colors have the unique characteristic of drying very quickly and not being resoluble in water. However, this unique characteristic of the acrylic colors has accounted for a widespread resistance to their use because the rapid drying has been a problem when the colors are applied to a palette. In essence, rapid drying is a problem on the palette, but is usually very desirable on the work itself. The use of the novel artist's palette of the subject invention will allow the artist to obtain the benefits of rapid drying acrylic polymer colors on the artistic work but not be hampered with the nuisance of the material becoming dry and unworkable on the palette surface.

While this invention has been described in relation to its preferred embodiments, it is to be understood that various modifications thereof will now be apparent to one skilled in the art from reading this specification and it is intended to cover such embodiments which fall within the scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. An artist's palette for water-based colors comprising:

a. a palette base member having an upper finely textured surface for receiving a water coating; and

b. a thin water permeable liner for covering said finely textured surface of said palette base member comprising a lower water absorbent surface for contacting said finely textured surface and an upper water-permeable pigment-impermeable surface for receiving water-based artist's colors thereon.

2. The artist's palette of claim **1** wherein said liner means comprises paper having its upper surface coated with a thin water-insoluble layer of dried latex paint.

3. The artist's palette of claim **2** wherein said latex paint coating is formed from a liquid latex, comprising a major effective amount of a volatile carrier, and minor effective amounts of polymeric latex and pigment.

4. The artist's palette of claim **1** wherein said palette base member is made of water absorbent material.

5. The artist's palette of claim **1** further comprising a water reservoir means for supplying a controlled flow of water to said finely textured surface.

6. The artist's palette of claim **5** wherein said water reservoir member comprises an enclosed chamber having aperture means for supplying a controlled flow of water to said finely textured surface.

7. The artist's palette of claim **6** wherein said water reservoir means further comprises a clamp means for retaining said reservoir to said palette base member.

8. The artist's palette of claim **7** further comprising handgrip means for holding said palette.

9. The artist's palette of claim **5** wherein said palette base member comprises sidewall means for supporting said finely textured surface forming an internal recess below said finely textured surface and rim means at the base of said sidewall means for receiving the upper portion of a sidewall member of a second identical artist's palette stacked in nested relationship such that the water reservoir means of said second palette fits within said recess.

10. The artist's palette of claim **9** further comprising an upwardly extending lip means carried by said sidewall means and extending a uniform distance above said finely textured surface.

11. The artist's palette of claim **5** wherein said palette base member comprises a thin flexible member.

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