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(54) A PROCESS FOR MAKING REPRODUCTIONS OF PAINTINGS AND
 REPRODUCTIONS ACHIEVED WITH SAID PROCESS

(71) I, GERARD, LOUIS, YVES DELORME, of 10 Boulevard Suchet, Paris, France, a French citizen, do hereby declare the invention, for which I pray that a patent 5 may be granted to me, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

10 The present invention provides a process for making reproductions of paintings, as well as the reproductions achieved through said process.

15 Various processes for making reproductions of paintings are already known, ranging from extremely simple processes consisting, for example, in taking a photograph of the work, in making an enlargement of the photograph to the size of the original work and in sticking said photograph on to a support such as a canvas.

20 More elaborate processes consist in analysing the colours of a painting and in making a stencil for each colour, then in making up a copy of the original painting by 25 means of said coloured stencils.

25 This last process has the drawback of not being suitable for all paintings in view of, for example, the large number of differently coloured stencils required, and the 30 size of the stencils.

35 The first process of reproduction referred to hereinabove, consisting of mounting a correctly proportioned photograph of the work on a canvas, can include allowing the relief of the threads of the canvas to show through, but this is only suitable for a very limited number of original works, in particular ancient ones, in which the canvas does effectively show through the paint. 40 However, such a type of painting is rather scarce and most paintings on canvas are cracked, or have paint reliefs, but the threads of the canvas do not show through.

45 The present invention aims to provide a process making it possible to reproduce paintings using a photograph or flat copy although providing the reproductions with a

relief very close to that of the original painting. To this end, the invention provides a process for making a reproduction of a painting on a support by producing a flat copy of the painting, making relief portions on the support which substantially correspond to the relief areas of the painting, and applying and fixing the flat copy to the support in register with the relief portions thereof whereby the relief areas of the painting reproduced on the flat copy are deformed around the corresponding relief portions of the support to produce a replica of the painting.

50 Further according to the present invention there is provided a reproduction of a painting when formed by the process described in the immediately preceding paragraph.

55 The support preferably corresponds to that of the original painting, for example a canvas or a panel.

60 The expression "flat copy" refers for example to a colour photograph or a colour printing of the original painting (for example having from 3 to 10 colours). The selection of a photograph or a printed copy or the like depends on the print to be achieved. By way of example, where a limited number of prints is sought, a photograph is particularly suitable, while for making a great number of prints, printing processes seem to be more suitable, particularly in view of their cost.

65 Generally the flat copy will be made on a backing sheet from which it is preferably subsequently removed and transferred on to a transparent sheet for application to the support. In particular, after having taken a photograph of the original painting and enlarged said photograph to the size of said original painting, said photograph is processed so as to remove the image-carrying film, usually a film of gelatine coloured in accordance with the image, from its photographic backing sheet, and the film is transferred on to the transparent sheet.

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The process of transfer on to the transparent sheet may comprise applying a matt or glossy transparent pellicle or sheet to the photograph or flat copy. Then, this assembly is pressed while, if necessary, heating. Operational factors such as pressure and temperature will depend on the materials used, such requirements being known by experts; thus, some types of materials stick when heated under pressure, while others can be stuck or fixed when cold.

With particular reference to a photograph, when the compression under heat has been performed, the image-carrying film of the photograph is removed by lifting the transparent sheet with the film as the latter is transferred from the cardboard or paper backing sheet of the photograph. The transparent sheet is then ready to be fixed on to the new support.

To prepare the reproduction support, a material identical to that of the original painting, generally a canvas, is usually selected. If necessary the support can then be treated in preparation for receiving the transparent sheet and for making the relief portions. The treatment may include covering the support with a hardenable mass such as a plaster paste.

Then relief portions imitating the relief areas of the original painting are made on the support. To this end, a picture or photograph of the original painting of the size selected for the reproduction can be projected on to the support. In the preferred embodiment, a mass of hardenable material such as for example a plaster paste is applied to the support.

The hardenable mass is then distributed and shaped so as to imitate as closely as possible the relief areas of the paint of the original painting. In order to determine the areas to be thus put in relief, it suffices to consider the original painting, the photograph thereof or to take very simple rules into account; as a matter of fact, the examination of a standard painting shows that in general the shadow areas are relatively glossy and the light areas pasty, in particular where the colours themselves are light; the same applies to pleats in, for example, garments. By projecting a copy of the painting on to the support the comparison is facilitated, but this may not be essential to an expert.

When the relief portions are formed, an adhesive material is preferably placed on the support, then the transparent sheet carrying the copy of the painting is positioned thereon. Such a positioning must be performed with great precision so as to ensure an entire coincidence between the relief portions of the support and the photograph or the flat copy to provide a replica of the painting. Thermal or mechanical phenomena

may occur such as, for example, expansion or contraction, which will be taken into account in practice.

The adhesive material may comprise a film having adhesive on opposite surfaces or, for example, an adhesive coating or a glue.

When the positioning has been completed, this assembly is compressed while it is heated so as to make the elements thus combined integral with each other.

Further to this operation, a surface processing can be contemplated to improve the finish of the reproduction.

The reproduction obtained through the process disclosed hereabove is substantially faithful to the original painting in view of the relief portions which create light effects and break the uniformity of the surface.

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WHAT I CLAIM IS:—

1. A process for making a reproduction of a painting on a support by producing a deformable flat copy of the painting, making relief portions on the support which substantially correspond to the relief areas of the painting, and applying and fixing the flat copy to the support in register with the relief portions thereof whereby the relief areas of the painting reproduced on the flat copy are deformed around the corresponding relief portions of the support to provide a replica of the painting.
2. A process as claimed in claim 1 in which the flat copy is made on a backing sheet from which it is subsequently transferred on to a transparent sheet for application to the support.
3. A process as claimed in claim 2 in which the flat copy comprises a photograph, and wherein the image-carrying film forming the photograph is removed from the photographic backing sheet and transferred on to the transparent sheet.
4. A process as claimed in claim 2 or claim 3 in which the transparent sheet incorporating the flat copy is applied to the support by first applying adhesive material to the support and then applying the transparent sheet to the adhesive material.
5. A process as claimed in claim 4 in which the adhesive material comprises a film having adhesive on opposite surfaces.
6. A process as claimed in claim 4 in which the adhesive material comprises a
7. A process as claimed in any one of the preceding claims in which the relief portions are made on the support by applying a hardenable mass to the support and shaping the mass to substantially imitate the relief areas of the painting.
8. A process as claimed in claim 7 in which the hardenable mass comprises a plaster paste

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9. A process as claimed in any one of the preceding claims in which the relief portions are made on the support by projecting a picture of the painting on to the support and making the relief portions in accordance with the variations in lighting of said projected picture so that they substantially correspond to the relief areas of the painting.

10. 10. A process as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8 in which the relief portions are made on the support by examining the picture and making the relief portions in accordance with the variations in light reflection from the painting so that they substantially correspond to the relief areas of the painting.

11. A process for making a reproduc-

tion of a painting substantially as herein described.

12. A reproduction of a painting when formed by the process of any one of the preceding claims.

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