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

(71) I, GERARD, LOUIS, YVES DE-
 LORME, of 10 Boulevard Suchet, Paris,
 France, a French citizen, do hereby declare
 the invention, for which I pray that a patent
 may be granted to me, and the method by
 which it is to be performed, to be particu-
 larly described in and by the following state-
 ment:—

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

Various processes for making reproduc-
 tions of paintings are already known,
 ranging from extremely simple processes
 consisting, for example, in taking a photo-
 graph of the work, in making an enlarge-
 ment of the photograph to the size of the
 original work and in sticking said photo-
 graph on to a support such as a canvas.

More elaborate processes consist in ana-
 lysing the colours of a painting and in mak-
 ing a stencil for each colour, then in mak-
 ing up a copy of the original painting by
 means of said coloured stencils.

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

The first process of reproduction refer-
 red to hereabove, consisting of mounting
 a correctly proportioned photograph of
 the work on a canvas, can include allow-
 ing 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 can-
 vas does effectively show through the paint.
 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.

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 paint-
 ing. 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 por-
 tions 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 de-
 formed around the corresponding relief
 portions of the support to produce a replica
 of the painting.

Further according to the present inven-
 tion there is provided a reproduction of a
 painting when formed by the process de-
 scribed in the immediately preceding para-
 graph.

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

The expression "flat copy" refers for ex-
 ample 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 parti-
 cularly suitable, while for making a great
 number of prints, printing processes seem
 to be more suitable, particularly in view of
 their cost.

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 en-
 larged said photograph to the size of said ori-
 ginal painting, said photograph is processed
 so as to remove the image-carrying film,
 usually a film of gelatine coloured in ac-
 cordance with the image, from its photo-
 graphic backing sheet, and the film is trans-
 ferred on to the transparent sheet.

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.

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 glue.

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

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. 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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