

OVER 50 YEARS SERVICE TO ART

Jack Richeson
& Co., Inc.

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shiva®

Casein Colors

Casein (kay'seen) is a quick-drying, aqueous medium using a milk-based binding agent, and is one of the most durable mediums known to man. Nine thousand year old Casein cave paintings have been discovered in Asia, and later, the medium was used by Byzantine, Roman and Renaissance artists including the Old Masters.

In 1933, Casein pigments in tubes were developed by Ramon Shiva who relied on the expertise of the artists who used them to help perfect his high-quality paints.

Today, Jack Richeson & Co., Inc. manufactures Shiva's Casein colors and is dedicated to bringing back the original quality and formulation of the pigments.

Known for their versatility and array of capabilities, Casein paints can be used to create a variety of effects from the rich opaques of oil to thin watercolor washes. Casein paints may be applied to almost any rigid, non-oily surface such as canvas panel, illustration board, heavy watercolor paper, plaster, metal, wood, masonite, canvas, or linen mounted on masonite. And they can be reworked or layered repeatedly and be used for underpainting.

Because Casein has an exceptional integrity of color and always dries to a perfect matte finish, it is unexcelled for art reproduction. The velvety matte finish can also be buffed to a satin sheen or varnished to produce a resemblance to oils. Over time, Casein pigments become resistant to moisture and as history has proven, the medium has a durability and permanence which has easily stood the test of time.

Frequently Asked Questions about Casein

Q. How does Casein differ from other media? What are its advantages?

A. Casein differs from other media, yet it shares many of the same characteristics, which make it a very versatile medium that lends itself to many techniques.

Casein has the wash capabilities of watercolor, the smooth opacity of tempera and gouache, and the richer textures of oils and acrylics. It always dries quickly to a velvety, matte finish and over time, it becomes resistant to moisture.

Unlike oils, Casein is a clean, water-soluble medium requiring no strong solvents. And because it dries quickly, it's possible to lay on a glaze and move onto the next stage within a few hours instead of waiting for days, or even months, for oil glazes over oil to dry.

Acrylics can become gummy and resinous unless you buy retarders and mediums. It can also gum up your brushes, making fine detail hard to achieve. Brushes dipped in Casein keep their finesse, producing clear, crisp lines.

As far as watercolor goes, the main advantage of Casein is that it's easily correctable. It can be removed with a cloth, brush or eraser, or if it's already dry, with a cloth dipped in ammonia and water (one part ammonia to nine parts water.)

Q. What surfaces may be used with Casein?

A. Casein may be applied to any rigid non-oily surface such as canvas panel, illustration board, heavy watercolor paper, sheetrock, metal, wood panels, masonite, canvas, or linen mounted on masonite.

Q. Can I paint with Casein on stretched canvas?

A. Yes, if you paint really thin, but frankly, that's better left to the experts because Casein can crack if it's applied too thickly on stretched canvas. Instead, mount canvas or linen on masonite and prime the canvas with PVA, glue or acrylic gesso. Then, go to town and paint as thick or thin as you please!

Q. What kind of watercolor paper is recommended for Casein?

A. Heavy rigid paper, 300 lbs. and up.

Q. What should I use for a palette?

A. Use a glass, porcelain or an enameled surface. An enameled butcher's meat tray, or even a porcelain lasagna dish works great! A plastic palette can be used, but the paint will stain the surface.

Q. How do I keep Casein from drying out on my palette?

A. If you're not accustomed to the fast drying time of Casein, you might find yourself wasting paint, and who needs that? If you find that it's drying out, add a few drops of water or use a spray bottle. Tightly cover the unused Casein with plastic wrap overnight and it will still be usable in the morning.

Q. What kind of water should I use with Casein?

A. Some people recommend distilled water, but ordinary tap water seems to work fine.

Q. What grounds can I paint on?

A. Rabbit skin glue, PVA, glue size and acrylic gesso. Just make sure there's no oil on the grounds.

Q. What kind of brushes should I use with Casein? How should I clean them?

A. You can use almost any kind of brush – stiff white brushes, soft hair watercolor brushes, oil brushes, Chinese brushes or fine points – depending on the effect you want to create. Or, if you really want to get crazy, use all of them together.

Because it dries quickly, Casein can be hard on brushes, so make sure you clean them thoroughly with gentle soap and water or a commercial cleaner when your painting day is over.

Q. What kind of varnish should I use with Casein?

A. Varnish is a matter of preference. Shiva Casein Varnish or a gloss varnish will intensify the color. Using a matte acrylic varnish will preserve that "authentic Casein" look.

Q. What's the best way to apply varnish to Casein?

A. If you brush varnish over a painting with delicate glazes, some lifting may occur, especially if your brush is too course.

If you've painted relatively thick, brushing on varnish will work if you're careful. However, the easiest way is to use spray varnish or Shiva Casein Varnish in a spray gun or an aerosol can.

Start the spraying process before the nozzle is over the area to be varnished and apply it in a diagonal direction over the painting, spraying in light, quick trails. Let it dry and repeat the process until you have the effect you want. When spraying varnish, open a window and always wear a HEPA rated double filter air mask. When you've finished, leave your studio until the fumes clear out.

Q. Are Caseins archival?

A. Yes, properly done and with a protective varnish, Caseins can last longer than oils, especially oils on canvas. They will not crack or yellow.

Q. How can I paint impasto when it's not recommended for Casein?

A. Create your impasto texture first, using thick gesso and a rough bristle brush. Then paint with Casein on top in the normal liquid way.

Q. Can I mix and match Casein with other media?

A. You can use Casein directly with watercolor, gouache and acrylics. With oils, use Casein after you've applied an intermediary varnish.

Q. When Casein dries, the values sometimes seem slightly different than when they were wet. What can I do about it?

A. Mix the color you want and apply a swatch on the area you want to paint. Then use a hair dryer (which is great for moving along quickly) to dry the Casein. If the color's okay, go ahead. If not, re-mix it and try it again until you're satisfied. And don't worry if you have swatches with the wrong color, because with Casein, it's as simple as painting over all the areas you've tested.

After you've painted with Casein for a while, you'll learn which colors lighten and darken by instinct. Remember, happy accidents sometimes "wake up" paintings.

Q. I've decided I don't like something in my painting. Can I change it?

A. That's the beauty of Casein. It's correctable! Rub or scrub the area with a damp cloth, paintbrush, or an eraser if it's dry, with a mixture of ammonia and water (one part ammonia to nine parts water).

Q. Sometimes when I use layers of Casein, the colors seem to look muddy. What can I do about it?

A. Applying too many layers of color or not allowing them to dry thoroughly may mute or muddy colors. Speed up drying time with that handy hair dryer.

Q. What if I want to use a color that's not available in the Shiva line?

A. It's simple. Mix Shiva Casein Emulsion with powdered pigments.

Spray some water on your palette and scoop out the pigment with a palette knife. Mix thoroughly into a paste and add a few drops of Shiva Casein Emulsion. Mix again, and you're ready to paint.

Q. If Casein is opaque, how can it be used for washes?

A. Casein is opaque, especially when white is added. However, when it's diluted with water, it can be applied in translucent layers, creating a gauze-like effect.

Q. What is half-tone black?

A. Even though Casein colors like titanium white and ivory black are opaque, half-tone black is finely dispersed, allowing your underpainting to show through. When applied over another color, the color changes with incredible results. For instance, when you put half-tone black over burnt sienna, you'll get a beautiful purple. And if that isn't enough, half-tone black is also great for shading over flat areas of color.

Q. Can I use Casein for painting a mural?

A. Of course, but only if you're painting an inside mural. For outside murals, you'll have to use specialty paints. Although Casein becomes resistant to water over time, the elements would take their toll.

Q. Can I use Casein for painting furniture or walls?

A. Sure. For furniture, clean the wood and size with PVA glue or gesso and paint away. For walls, prime with gesso or better yet, use Zinzer Bullseye Primer Sealer.

Q. Why does the color chart show a 95% color + 5% white wash?

A. Adding a touch of white to your Casein colors will help you control your washes. Five percent white will make washes lighten gradually from opaque to transparent instead of changing too rapidly. Try it, you won't believe the difference.

Helpful Tips for Caseins

- Choose a rigid, non-oily surface to work on.
- Establish correct drawing and value patterns with a thin underpainting.
- Dilute Caseins with water to make washes and transparent glazes.
- Caseins, especially reds, oranges, & yellows, tend to shift after drying.
- Lighten colors by adding water or brighten them by adding powdered pigment.
- To correct an overly dark area, cover it with a more opaque layer of a lighter color.
- When working on a gessoed panel, correct any errors with an eraser or a 1:9 ammonia and water mixture.

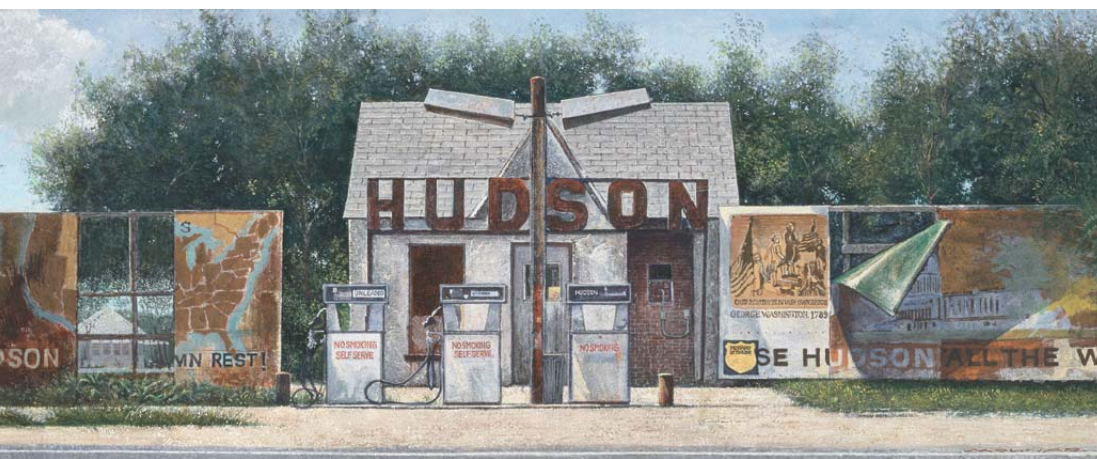
Paintings and Questions by John Molnar

For more information about the artist, please visit www.johnmolnarpaintings.com.

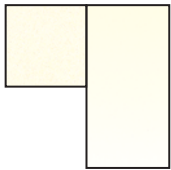
Known for his finely detailed landscapes which often suggest the passage of time, John Molnar has carved out a name for himself using the somewhat forgotten medium of Casein...

"Casein is a magical, invigorating natural medium that is made with the same care I put into my paintings. With casein, there's great brushability and versatility, and I can use it for everything from razor sharp detail to laying down a diaphanous wash to suggest hills in the distance. To me, Casein is every bit as relevant and exciting as it was centuries ago."

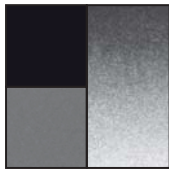
Based in Toronto, Molnar has won many awards in both the U.S. and Canada, and is represented by Ciparis Lennox Gallery and Rebecca Gallery in Toronto and Linda Lando Fine Art in Vancouver.



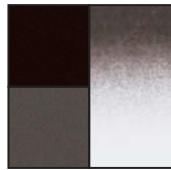
Shiva® Casein – 32 colors available in open stock and sets



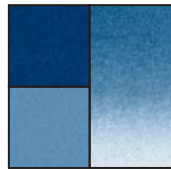
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120500



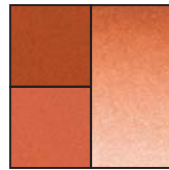
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120501



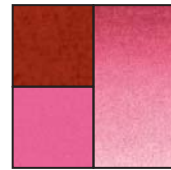
Half-tone Black
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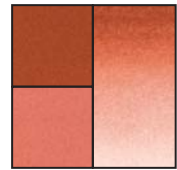
Payne's Grey
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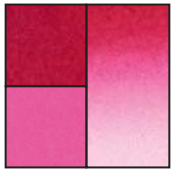
Light Red
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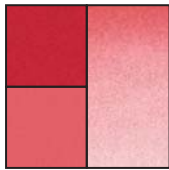
Alizarin Crimson
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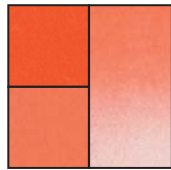
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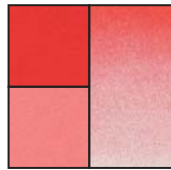
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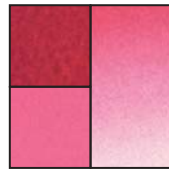
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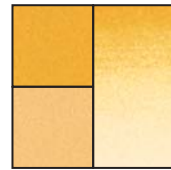
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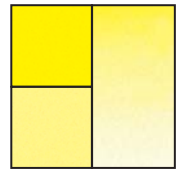
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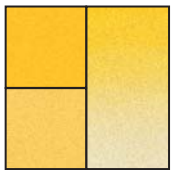
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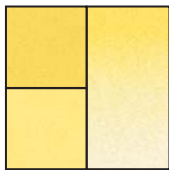
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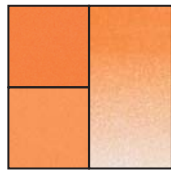
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Cadmium Yellow Medium
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Naples Yellow Hue
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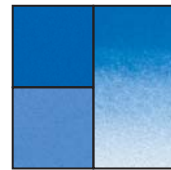
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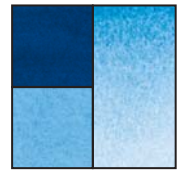
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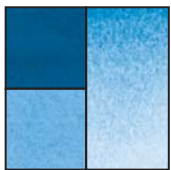
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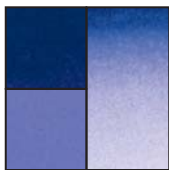
Ultramarine Blue
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Shiva Blue (Phthalo)
120520



Permasol Blue
120521



Shiva Violet
120522



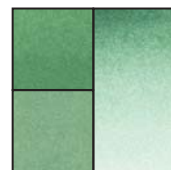
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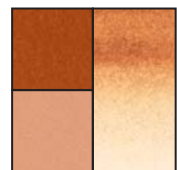
Cadmium Green
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Shiva Green (Phthalo)
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Chrom. Oxide Green
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Burnt Sienna
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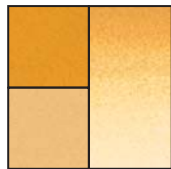
Burnt Umber
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Raw Sienna
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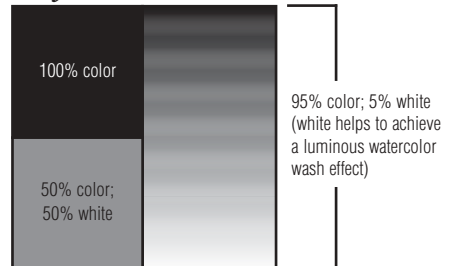


Raw Umber
120530



Golden Ochre
120531

Key:



Shiva Casein paints are tested in accordance to ASTM D-4236 and bear safety labels to the standards issued by ACMI. While many Casein colors are AP Approved non-toxic, certain colors bear the CL label with safety warnings.

Open Stock Casein

All colors are available in 1.25oz. tubes.
Titanium White is also available in a 5oz tube.

Basic Casein Set of 6

Set includes 1.25oz. tubes of: Titanium White, Ivory Black, Cadmium Red Scarlet, Cadmium Yellow Light, Ultramarine Blue, and Shiva Green.

Number 120533

Casein Color Chart

Number 120799

Wooden Box Set of 6

Set includes the same items as the Basic Set of 6, contained in a beautiful wooden slide top box.

Number 120542

Wooden Box Set of 12

Set includes 1.25oz. tubes of: Titanium White, Ivory Black, Cadmium Red Pale, Cadmium Yellow Light, Ultramarine Blue, Burnt Sienna, Yellow Ochre, Raw Umber, Cerulean Blue, Cadmium Red Extra Scarlet, Chromium Oxide Green and Golden Ochre.

Number 120541

