

PASTEL

You are now in possession of a painting done in the (dry) **pastel** medium. Leonardo Da Vinci first used this technique in the late 15th century and by the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries it had attained great status as a painting medium. A splendid example is the portrait of Madame de Pompadour painted during the year 1752-55 by Maurice Quentin de la Tour (1704-88) and which now hangs in the Louvre, Paris. Some impressionists such as Degas, Manet, Cassatt and Whistler, and more recently Picasso, Klee, Chagall and Jackson Pollock are examples of modern masters who have used **pastel** as a major painting medium.

Pastel enables artists to achieve paintings which range from the most delicate and subtle, to works of great vigour and luminous intensity of colour. **Pastel** will not suffer from cracking or yellowing as can occur with some other mediums. **Pastels** must be framed under glass and handled with care making certain that they are kept out of direct sunlight and away from water and damp (this applies to all paintings in and medium).

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