

# **RABBIT SKIN GLUE**



Rabbit Skin Glue is used to size canvas or linen before oil painting in order to coat and protect the fibers from deterioration caused by the oxidation of linseed oil that would otherwise penetrate the fibers. Rabbit Skin Glue will tighten the fabric as well as make it stiff. *Please see Rabbit Skin Glue Tech Sheet (for traditional gesso recipe and other applications.)* 

## SUPPLIES NEEDED TO PREPARE RABBIT SKIN GLUE:

- Rabbit Skin Glue
- Water
- Hot Plate
- Double boiler or sauce pot and clean metal container
- Palette knife
- Brush



# **INSTRUCTIONS:**

- 1. In the top container of the double boiler soak 1 part rabbit skin glue to 10 parts cold tap water. Allow mixture to sit 1-3 hours until the rabbit skin glue has swollen and is completely dissolved. Stir occasionally during this time.
- 2. Once the mixture is dissolved and swollen then start to heat the water in the bottom part of the double boiler. Heat slowly and do not allow the water to boil. If boiled, the mixture will lose its adhesive properties and will become ineffective.
- 3. Once the mixture is heated correctly it will be fluid. Brush this mixture onto the canvas or linen, allowing it to penetrate the weave of the fabric. (If the first coat revealed pinholes in the surface, use the second coat to fill those in.) Two thin coats are recommended to properly block oil penetration. Use the mixture while hot. Once it has cooled it will gel.





### **COVERAGE:**

Below is an estimate of the coverage of Rabbit Skin Glue over canvas, board or paper so you may better approximate the amount you will need.

1.12 oz. of dissolved Rabbit Skin Glue will cover 1 square foot of canvas

2.25 oz. RSG = 2 sq. ft. canvas

4.50 oz. RSG = 4 sq. ft. canvas

9 oz. RSG = 8 sq. ft. canvas

13.5 oz. RSG = 12 sq. ft. canvas

#### **WARNINGS:**

\*Please note that Rabbit Skin Glue is hygroscopic, meaning that as humidity increases, the Rabbit Skin Glue will absorb moisture and swell. With drier conditions, it will shrink back down which causes the canvas to tighten, go slack and lose its overall tension. Over time these fluctuations can stress dried oil paint films causing increased cracking. In controlled environments, this is less of a problem.

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