



Drying Time & The Effect of Hostile Climate

How the weather can effect the drying time of Interactive.

These comments relate to actual painting experience outdoors.

THE PAINT IS DRYING TOO FAST

Using Interactive in very dry and difficult conditions

In Alice Springs, Mt Isa, Chillagoe or Kimberley areas where we go painting in the dry winter months, the average humidity is very low indeed. Add direct sunlight, because it can be too cool under a shady tree, and a possible breeze and no plein air painter would venture forth with ordinary acrylics.

Painting outdoors at Alice Springs can consume huge amounts of spray water and Thick Slow Medium but Atelier Interactive still works comfortably.

Next trip, planned fairly soon to Mt Isa.

We will have Retarder 20% in the water spray, and will also try Unlocking Formula with water about 50/50. The Unlocking should give the most blending even when the painting is dry, because it opens it up again. Therefore we should not need to spray as often.

Other Reasons for "Too Fast Drying"

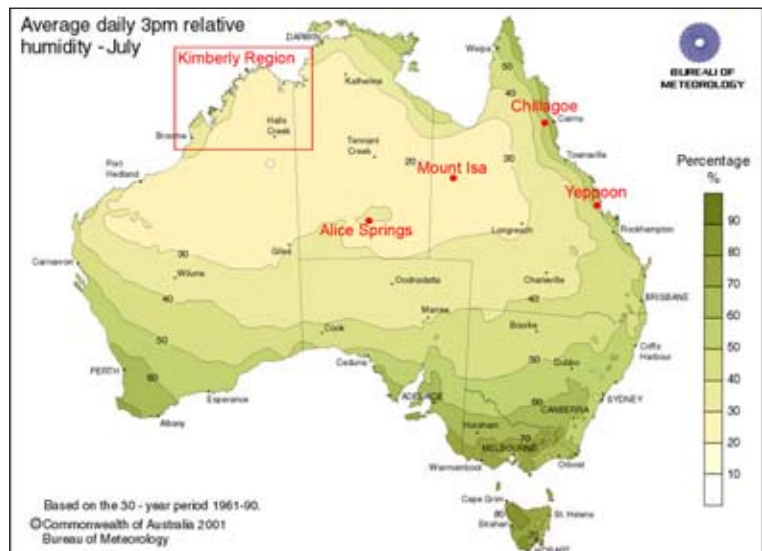
Absorbent surfaces suck water from the paint and a dry layer of Atelier Interactive is nearly as absorbent as watercolour paper. Fresh wet paint applied over a dry layer seems to dry very fast, but is not actually dry and can be moistened with a damp brush or water spray.

Unlocking Formula

Unlocking Formula is always there to re-blend dry paint a day or so later if you want to alter something in a blended way.



A Plein Air Painting of the Australian outback, completed using Interactive in harsh dry condntions.



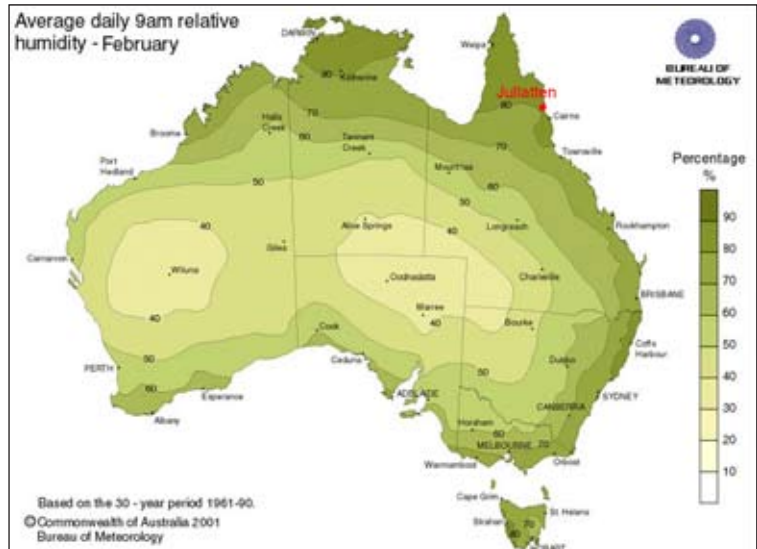
This map shows the average humidity in the areas I have painted plein air with Atelier Interactive.

THE PAINT IS DRYING TOO SLOW!

Using Interactive in high humidity

When there is high humidity all acrylic paints dry slowly (as do oils!). There is not much advantage in using Fast Medium or Binder (or a conventional acrylic).

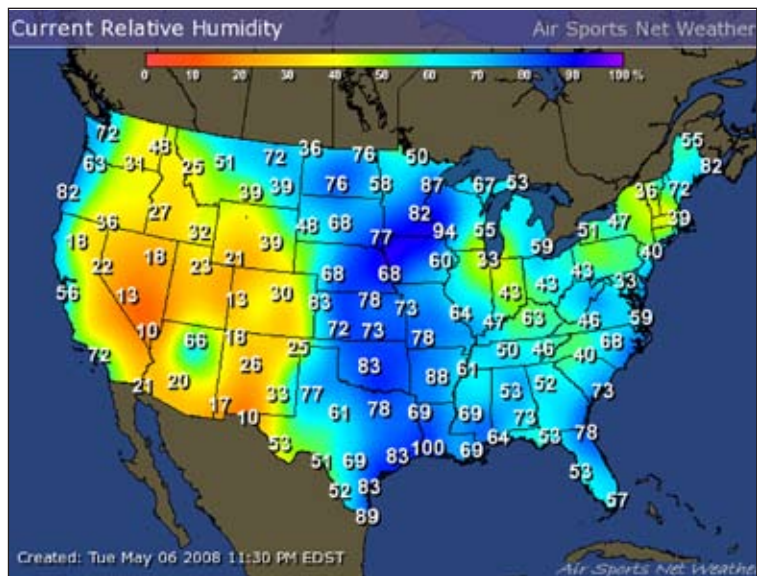
- If air conditioning is used, drying indoors is normal and artists can choose fast or slow processes. Julatten is cool, and without air conditioning we have in depth experience of indoor/outdoor excessive humidity, and we simply put our paintings aside to work on later when that stage is reached. When the paint gets tacky (it's mid stage) we are undeterred and add a little water spray to loosen it up.
- Weather maps show vast differences in humidity in the US from place to place, but most people do use air conditioning so the map only needs to be considered for outdoor painting in Arizona or New Mexico.



This map shows the high humidity in Julatten, where I live.



As this map shows NZ has quite high levels of humidity.



This map shows the variation in humidity across the USA.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE REFER TO

- [Atelier Interactive Basic Users Guide - Info Sheet 101](#)
- [Atelier Interactive Fast and Slow Painting Techniques Info sheet 102](#)
- [Plein Air Painting with Atelier Interactive Info Sheet 103](#)
- [Tips For Using Mediums with Atelier Interactive Info Sheet 104](#)
- [Atelier Interactive Colour Chart](#)
- Atelier Interactive Website: www.atelierinteractive.com