

CHROMA'S JO SONJA®

FACT SHEET

PALETTE PREPARATION

Palette preparation is a basic first step in learning to be an artist. Learn to first look at your project and put out all the colors you'll need on your palette before you start. You need to think about and visualise how you want your project to look, and then work towards that goal.

When laying out your colors, the use of a commercial palette set-up or a water-saturated paper towel will keep your paints fresh and workable.

WET PALETTE

Place a wet paper towel in a small, slightly recessed tray. The best way to control the moisture level in the paper towel is to completely saturate it, lay it in the tray, then tilt the tray and let the excess water run off. Your palette is wet enough when the water comes off in a slow drip (1 drip every 2-3 seconds). Press the towel across the tray to remove any air pockets. Now you've created a palette which is just as workable as a commercial palette. A palette like this will conserve unused paints for months. Now, go ahead and lay out your colors. Cover the tray with a lid or plastic wrap when not in use.

REMEMBER: KEEP THE TOWEL DAMP.

THE SECRET

Keep the paper towel moist during your painting hours. EVERY 2 TO 3 HOURS you should monitor the wetness of your paper towel. Remoisten if needed by spritzing water over the surface from a spray bottle, or gently lift one corner of the palette and pour a little water under the towel. If the paints begin to "skin over" they are easily reconstituted by spritzing the surface again, cover, let stand for 1/2 hour and they'll be ready to use again. You can also travel with your palette once the paints have dried out a little (by the 2nd day). Simply remoisten them upon your arrival and HAPPY PAINTING!

Once paints are too dry, you will not be able to reconstitute them ... especially with an older palette. It's better to start with a fresh palette of colors.

REMEMBER: The palette should only be damp, not soaking wet. A little practice and you'll easily perfect this technique for your particular climate.

STAY-WET PALETTE

If you are using a Stay-Wet Palette, you'll need to adjust its use to your climatic conditions. These palettes tend to be used too wet, causing the paints to become very fluid and run together. Using either palette method described, if the paper towel or palette becomes too dry, the paints will dry out. Although this sounds a little fearful, it is only a minor part of the adjustment period, is quickly learned, and is compensated by the wonderful fact of having a ready-made palette available simply at the removal of a lid.