



Technical Data Sheet

Sinopia Clay Bole Poliment

Sinopia Clay Bole Poliment is a soft clay paste which is used as a substrate in water gilding techniques. Primary ingredients are Kaolin Clay and Pigments, as well as other proprietary non-toxic additives.

The Clay Bole Poliment is used over a traditional Chalk Gesso, composed of chalk (whiting) and rabbit skin glue. The Clay Bole Poliment is prepared with rabbit, hide or bone glue as a binder and adhesive for the gold leaf. After the Clay is applied properly, the surface is flooded with water and gold leaf is applied to the surface. Once the Clay Bole Poliment has released enough water, the surface starts to harden, while still remaining pliable enough for the substrate to be burnished with an agate stone to achieve a reflective surface.

Ratios of Natural Glues to the Clay Bole Poliment vary according to the atmospheric conditions of the local surroundings. Here is a basic recipe, which is intended to be used a starting point for individual experimentation and adjustments:

1. By weight: combine 1 part Sinopia wet Clay to 75% distilled water
2. Close lid to mixture and shake well let stand for about an hour
3. Strain through fine nylon paint strainer into a clean container
4. Pre warm clay mixture
5. By volume: pour clay into calibrated container (milliliters) and add 85 - 90% prepared rabbit skin glue (for instance 50ml prepared Sinopia Clay to 42.5 ml to 45ml rabbit skin glue)
6. Return to the double boiler and gently heat. Stir during this step. The bole will first emulsify. Keep stirring until the bole with a bole brush is very smooth.
7. Keep bole in the double boiler at a temperature of 32 - 37 °C during application. Higher temperatures will cause the bole to skim over.

PLEASE NOTE: Unlike other clays, our clay has to be thinned generously with water, until it reaches the consistency of cream. It is not recommended to blend our clay with natural glue, without adding water to the clay first.