

What you should know about pigments

Today, there is a large and sometimes confusing range of artists' pigments available on the market for the production of own artists' colours. Occasionally, consumers are confused by the variety of pigment shades, different qualities, sizes and prices.

It goes without saying that pigment is not like pigment

- why are there so big price differences ?
- how can you identify a quality pigment?
- how can you determine the quality of a good pigment?



There is no standard for the term "artists' pigment" and the various specifications of the different suppliers give only little information. The first criterion classifies pigments into "Artists' Pigments" and "Pigments" whereby "Artists' Pigments" should be of a higher quality than "Pigments".

It happens very often that a pigments pretends to be 100 % pure, but turns out to be blended or extended. That means, that a substance – neutral in colour - has been added to the pigment. Although not visible at first glance, the amount of extender added to pigments varies considerably from supplier to supplier. The effect: the blended, so-called "Artists' Pigment" in fact is not that brilliant and lightfast like a pigment being 100% pure. As a result the productiveness is greatly reduced and its price advantage is very questionable.

The following specifications will help you to find out about the quality of the pigment:

- **C.I.-Index (international Norm of Colour Index) – only some manufacturers give detailed information.**
- **Information about light fastness**
- **Indications as to whether additives and extenders have been used**
- **Colour Charts and further technical documentation.**

Colour charts with detailed information, such as the Schmincke Pigment brochure (No 95 218) list the qualities and pureness of the pigments and give detailed descriptions of each shade.

If this information is not available in a colour chart it might be an indication that pigments have been blended with extenders and are not 100% pure.

If you attach importance to premium quality and pureness, we recommend you to select the pigment range of Schmincke: providing you with 100% pure pigment, maximum brilliance, maximum colour intensity and maximum productiveness.

