

**MORE THAN 100 YEARS OF
PERFECT CRAFTSMANSHIP**





From artist to painting fanatic

Claessens Canvas produces Belgian canvases of the highest quality. It delivers a combination of traditional materials with modern techniques. More than 100 years ago Claessens Canvas set the standard for exquisite canvases suitable for any painting style. Claessens Canvas offers a broad selection of canvases, ranging from unprepared over oil-prepared and chalk-prepared to universal canvases, suited for any type of paint. Next to it being the height of quality, Claessens Canvas also stands for knowledge, technology and advice & assistance where necessary.

Our story

Somewhere close to the river Leie and in the middle of the flax-growing region, Victor Claessens had the buildings of his new company erected in 1905. What he did not know at the time was that, one hundred years later, the Molenstraat in Waregem would be the home base of a company known in all the corners of the world for its **high-quality canvases**. The **tradition of Claessens Artists' Canvas** was born.

Now, more than **100 years** later, the **family-owned company** is still there, drawing from its long family tradition but at the same time honouring the long-**established production process** since the beginning of its existence. Although a large part of the production takes place mechanically, Claessens still operates according to the traditional procedure for certain unique orders. **Magritte, Raveel** and **Keith Haring** are only a few examples of the artists working with a canvas of Claessens Canvas.

When the artist mixes his paint, lays out his knives, brushes and stretches the canvas onto the frame, that canvas already has a long history behind it.

Claessens V.A. nv

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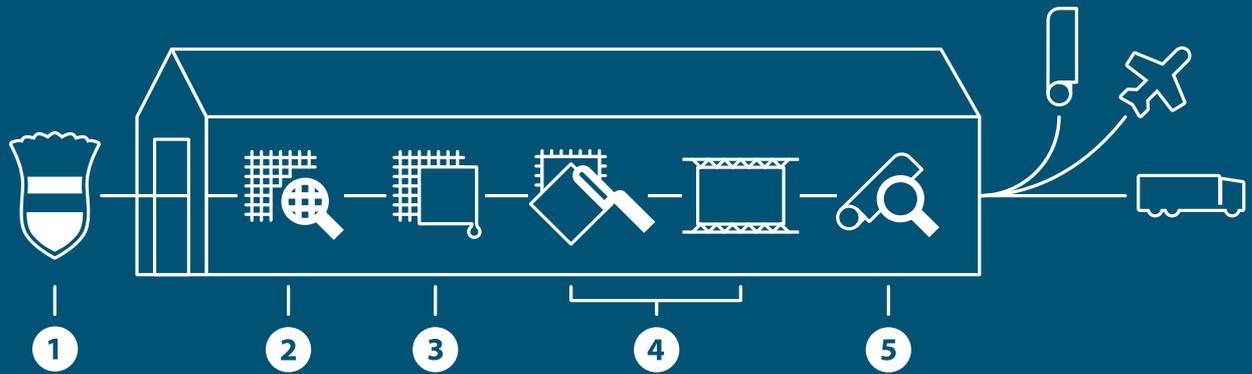
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From flax to canvas



STEP 1 | **raw linen**

This raw, untreated fabric is made of flax and is, just like Claessens' finished canvases, solely produced in Belgium.



STEP 2 | **quality control**

During this inspection it is checked whether the linen contains any weaving faults. In this phase the abnormally thick threads and lumps are carefully removed. When it is guaranteed that the linen no longer contains any mistakes, it is mechanically sheared and freed of dust. Now the canvas is ready to be glued.

STEP 3 | **gluing the canvas**

We always apply two layers of synthetic adhesive. After each layer the canvas is dried in a hot-air oven.





STEP 4 | **production**

Before the canvas can be treated with paint, the coatings need to be made. The type of coating that is applied to the canvas depends on the type of canvas that is created.

Production of oil canvases

First, a primer of zinc white paint bound with linseed oil is applied to the glued linen by means of two knives. Then, the canvas is put into a drying room for three days where it air-dries naturally. After that, it is sanded and a coating layer based on titanium white is applied to the canvas by means of two knives and a roller. The canvas then has to go back into the drying room for another ten days.



Production of universal canvases

Universal primed canvases are coated twice with an acrylic-bound titanium white paint by means of a knife. Because this primer and coating are water-based, these universal canvases are dried in a hot-air oven, where the water can evaporate more quickly.

Production of absorbent canvases

For the production of absorbent canvases two layers of chalk white are used as primer, bound with hide glue. After each layer the canvas is put in the drying room.

Production of wide canvases

If an order is made whereby the canvas cannot be produced mechanically, then the production takes place in the traditional way. This is possible for canvases with a width of up to 4.20 metres and a length of up to 40 metres.

STEP 5 | **final inspection**

The finished canvases are carefully inspected one last time before they are put onto 10 m rolls and stocked in our warehouse.





**CLAESSENS CANVAS,
A MARK OF QUALITY**



Product range

3 types of treatment

There are three possible types of treatment: oil canvases intended for oil paint, absorbent canvases for tempera paint and universal canvases for oil paint and acrylic paint.

Product range

unprepared

- ◇ untreated linen
- ◇ own preparation
- ◇ often for restoration
- ◇ e.g. 066

universal

- ◇ medium absorption
- ◇ suited for both acrylic as well as oil paints
- ◇ e.g. 166

Select your canvas

An artist's canvas comes in surprisingly many variations. Take a look at www.claessenscanvas.com. Below you can find an overview of all the options in order to compose the perfect canvas:

primer

- ◇ primed
- ◇ unprimed

width

- ◇ 1.40 metres
- ◇ 2.10 metres
- ◇ 3.10 metres
- ◇ 4.10 metres

structure

- ◇ very fine
- ◇ fine
- ◇ medium
- ◇ coarse
- ◇ rough

verf

- ◇ oil or acrylic
- ◇ oil
- ◇ tempera

Around 90 types of canvases

Each of the 91 types of canvases has a unique reference number, consisting of a prefix number and an addition. The prefix number specifies the type of treatment.

oil

- ◇ almost no absorption
- ◇ only suited for oil paints
- ◇ best colour preservation
- ◇ e.g. 66

chalk

- ◇ maximum absorption
- ◇ mainly for water colour/tempera
- ◇ fresco look
- ◇ e.g. 266

vas.com and choose the canvas that suits you best.



preparation

- ◇ glued
- ◇ universal (acrylic/oil)
- ◇ oil
- ◇ absorbent (tempera)
- ◇ acrylic

canvas

- ◇ polyester
- ◇ linen
- ◇ cotton
- ◇ viscose fibre
- ◇ jute
- ◇ linen/cotton
- ◇ linen/jute



Did you know ...

- ◇ that you can find Claessens Canvas on the social media platform Facebook?

Take a look at our page for the most recent news.



[www.facebook.com/
Claessens.Canvas](https://www.facebook.com/Claessens.Canvas)

- ◇ that Claessens Canvas has been manufacturing canvases **since 1905?**
- ◇ that the first invoices in 1906 were immediately for **international customers?**
- ◇ that Claessens Canvas only uses its **own synthetic glue?**

- ◇ that Claessens Canvas is the proud owner of the authenticity label '**Handmade in Belgium?**



- ◇ that canvases with a width of 3.10 or 4.10 metres and a length of 40 metres are still **made by hand?**

- ◇ that we only work with **flax from the region?**

THAT'S HOW WE ROLL!

FAQ

What about cracks around the edges of the frame?

Older oil-prepared canvases may display cracks along the edges of the frame. However, as these cracks are very superficial and are related to the ageing process, there is no need to worry. This will have no effect on the painting. At worst, this area will have increased absorbency, but the double layer of glue should protect the fibre adequately.

Is there a way to prevent slight dimples?

Slight dimples in the canvas can be caused by small differences in tension in the fabric due to the weaving process. The only way to get rid of such dimples is to stretch the canvas a little bit harder onto the frame. Sometimes suchlike dimples can be seen on the sides of the canvas. You can solve this problem by cutting these sides.

What if the canvas is too smooth?

If the canvas is too smooth you can roughen it up using a pumice stone or fine sandpaper. Try to work as evenly as possible across the entire surface area of the canvas.

What is the cause of the parallel lines that are visible across the width of an oil-prepared canvas?

The last layer of paint is applied to the canvas by means of large paint rollers, which consist of velvet stretched around a piece of wood. Because of the edges of the velvet, a seam is visible. This seam might leave a mark in the paint. It is possible that this mark is visible several times in a row. This is not a manufacturing defect, but only an optical effect in the top layer of the canvas.

How can I get rid of the yellow discolouration?

The front of oil-prepared canvases can occasionally display yellow discolouration. This is caused by the



discolouration of the linseed oil when there is not enough daylight around. It can also happen when one canvas is placed in front of another for a long period of time. This discolouration is a natural phenomenon and will rapidly disappear when the canvas is once again exposed to daylight or sunlight.

Can I restretch a slack canvas using water?

Avoid this at all costs, as it is very bad for the painting. When a canvas gets slack, you can easily fix it by adjusting the wedges in the corners. If this does not work, you can always consider removing the canvas and stretching it again in the approved manner. So do not use water, but stretch the canvas in a dry environment.

What is the best way to store a canvas?

Put the stretched canvas in an upright position against a wall in your workshop. Do not lean smaller canvases against larger ones as this

might cause denting. It is best to store the canvases according to size, back to back and front to front.

How can I prevent creases in the canvas?

Act carefully when stretching the canvas and keep any unused canvases nicely rolled up.

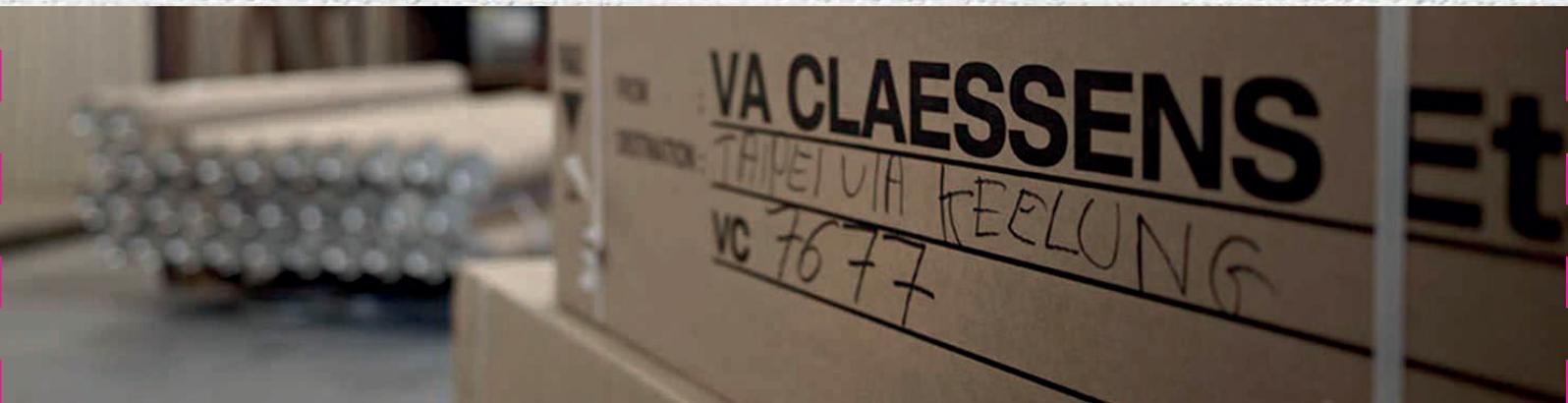
Slight creases will disappear during the stretching process, but heavier creases are almost impossible to remove!

For more information, please visit www.claessenscanvas.com

Thanks again, Claessens, for all that you do!

I just wanted to thank Claessens Artists' Canvas for making the best painting surfaces available. I've used Claessens #13 SP linen for years and know that I can depend on the consistent high quality found in each roll. When it comes to painting commissioned portraits, Claessens linen provides the perfect surface for achieving results that will last for generations to come. If you're not familiar with all of the superior products that Claessens offers, I would highly recommend trying them out.

Brian Neher,
portrait painter and artist



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