



**Utrecht Art Supplies**

**Product Profiles: Are Acrylics “Archival”?**



**Ask the Expert: "I use Utrecht brand acrylic paints and would like to know whether they are considered archival certified? Are all acrylics archival, or is there a difference by brand/series?"**

**A:** When artists say "archival", usually they really mean " **durable to the standards of permanent art** ". If that's what you're asking, the answer is absolutely yes, Utrecht Professional Acrylic Colors and Mediums meet the highest standards of durability and lightfastness.

Strictly speaking, the term "archival" means something suitable for long-term contact with important objects, safe and stable to museum or library standards. Not all products for library and museum storage are good for making art. Likewise, not all art supplies are safe for long-term contact with museum artifacts- oil paint, for instance, can be very permanent and lightfast on a prepared canvas, but can prove destructive when applied to unprotected paper. For this reason, we don't use the term "archival" as synonymous with "permanent" or "durable". Artists' acrylics are for the most part benign and will not harm other materials through physical contact, so they are suitable for some archival applications.

All Utrecht Professional Acrylic Colors, Mediums and Primers are suitable for permanent art, regardless of series number. This might not be true of every single paint brand, but there are many good, professional-quality brands available. Any brand that does not list lightfastness ratings or which is sold primarily as a craft supply, for instance, might not meet professional standards. Paint sold as "professional grade" with documented lightfastness ratings will probably perform very well over time.