

10170 Ploss Blue, copper-calcium-acetate

Ploss blue is neutral verdigris, also known as “crystallized”, “distilled”, or “purified” verdigris, is neutral copper acetate $\text{Cu}(\text{CH}_3\text{COO})_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$. The acidic solution of copper can be neutralized with lime, resulting in blue-green crystals of especially brilliant luminosity. The crystals dissolve entirely in water without decomposition. Basic verdigris (see also product no. 44450) is formed when acetic acid vapour, water vapour and air act on copper. The copper becomes covered with a bluish green crust, which is then scraped off. Around the twelfth century, the verdigris production centered around the area of Montpellier, in the South of France, where the wine industry was flourishing.

This pigment is much more vivid than in color than azurite, almost comparable to our fluorescent blue.

The color change is less pronounced with neutral verdigris in oil and egg tempera than it is with basic verdigris. Ploss blue reacts with binding media; with resins it forms copper resonates; with oil it forms copper oleates; and with proteins, it forms copper-protein compounds. Neutral verdigris is known to promote the drying of oil-media, a property which was mentioned in the literature.

H. Ploss describes the production of this color in his book, “A Book about Old Colors”, with a reference to a color book dating back to 1500 from Trier (Germany). The name of this color was chosen in his honor.

Excerpts from:

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