UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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PROCESS OF PRODUCING COPIES OF OIL-PAINTINGS.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HUBERT BOGAERTS, a subject of the Queen of the Netherlands, residing at Burgakker, Boxtel, in the Kingdom of the Netherlands, have invented a new and useful Improved Process of Producing Copies of Oil-Paintings; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention has for its object an improved method whereby exact copies in oil colors of all kinds of pictures may be obtained, the said copies possessing when finished all the features of the original, such as exact coloring, with its brush-marks, impasto, glazing, &c.

According to my invention I print the picture in oil colors upon specially-prepared canvas and then produce on the surface thereof a copy of the brush-marks, impasto, and glazing of the original picture, as hereinafter more particularly described.

Figure 1 is a sectional view of the original picture to be copied with a thin sheet of metal above it preparatory to forming a matrix. Fig. 2 is a section of the lead or stereo-metal negative or matrix. Fig. 3 is a section of the prepared canvas with color applied. Fig. 4 is a section of the completed copy.

In carrying out the invention ordinary artists' canvas is coated with a suitable color prepared with wax and is then dried and passed through a glazing-machine in order to polish the surface and render it suitable for receiving the colors with facility, or ordinary muslin is stiffened with glue, polished and coated with a solution of celluloid and a suitable white color. After drying a second coating of the solution is applied, and the surface is then polished by being caused to dry upon a polished glass surface or by being passed through a glazing-machine.

The drawing is made upon a lithographic stone or typographic block in as many colors as are required for a correct color copy of the original in the same manner as if the picture were to be reproduced by chromolithography on paper, except that oily chalk is employed as far as possible to obtain the least amount of grain. This is illustrated in Fig. 3, in which *a* is the canvas, *b* the layer of wax, and *c* the colors placed thereon. The colors are then placed upon the prepared canvas from the stone in the usual manner—that is to say, one color upon the other—and when dry the canvas is further treated to obtain an exact copy of the brush-marks, impasto, and other details peculiar to the original picture. To carry out this further treatment, I prepare a matrix as follows—that is to say, I apply a thin sheet of lead or the like upon the surface of the picture to be copied, (see *d*, Fig. 1,) this lead sheet being advantageously backed with a sheet of blotting-paper or the equivalent, and I then by means of an ordinary stereotype-brush produce a negative from which a positive in plaster is made. From this positive a stout lead or stereo-metal negative possessing all the features of the original picture is cast. In Fig. 1, c' represents the coating of oil colors forming the surface of the picture upon the canvas a'. Fig. 2 is a section of the metal negative or matrix. This completed picture is shown in section in Fig. 4, in which c^2 is the roughened color-coating upon the waxed canvas.

The matrix having been prepared as above described and greased, the copy is placed in it and subjected to pressure in a heated press. The wax coating upon the canvas becomes softened under the influence of the heat and is forced by the pressure into the recesses of the matrix, thus impressing upon the prepared and colored canvas the whole of the features and peculiarities of surface of the original picture. The copy after remaining in the press for a short time is removed, dried, mounted, and varnished.

Copies of paintings made in accordance with my invention are excellent imitations, so much so, in fact, that it is very difficult to distinguish the copy from the original.

Having now particularly described and ascertained the nature of my said invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, I declare that what I claim is—

1. The process of producing copies of oil-paintings, which consists in providing a fabric back with a smooth surface of a material capable of being softened by heat, then applying a color copy of the said oil-painting to said surface, then applying a thin sheet of yielding metal to the face of the said oil-painting, then pressing said sheet of metal against the said oil-painting to cause the metal to receive the impression of all of the inequalities of the face of said oil-painting, then forming a plaster positive from the impressed sheet of metal, then casting a stout metallic matrix from said plaster positive