

March 21, 1984

Mr. Roy Lichtenstein  
105 East 29th Street  
New York, New York 10016

Dear Roy:

We're delighted you are committed-in-principle to our "Giant Lacquer Series" project.

We have received a telex response from Pascal LAS regarding the many questions asked about his technique and materials involved in producing the works, ultimately.

1. What is the clear coating?

Ans.: All of the complex varnishes (and colors) are of a pure polyester base consisting of 3 components; resin, catalyst, and a solvent to accelerate.

2. Dull or Matte Finish - Process?

Ans.: Application of the polyester resin followed by treatment with different coarses of stone abrasion resulting in a smooth, matte finish (very fine to the hand). Finally, to achieve a further refinement to the finish, a colorless wax is applied and buffed.

3. Can clear coating (varnish) be eliminated?

Ans.: Yes. However, but the colors couldn't be called lacquer anymore..but an oil-based paint. Plus, the glaze of this finish, combined with previous metal (silver) leaf would oxydize in the open air. Not recommended.

4. What are the base materials?

Ans.: Generally, a compressed, very dense wood composition. However, solid wood can also be used in certain cases. Plywood layers are used for embossing and relief. We also may utilize plastic materials for support (ABS to polyester formula) in the case of sculptures or large pieces. We can also apply these

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lacquers on metal (sheet-iron, steel or aluminum) after treatment.

5. How was the final sample for Roy executed?

Ans.: Steps -- a) Preparation of wood.  
b) Application of 6 layers of black polyester.  
c) Treatment of polyester.  
d) Create relief design.  
e) Execution of actual relief in clear polyester after marking.  
f) Application of colored lacquers and pure silver (leaf) parts.  
g) Polyurethane isolation.  
h) Application of pure, clear varnish.  
i) Surface treatment with abrasives of different coarseness.  
j) Overall buffing for shine.  
k) Masking the embossed levels to keep high gloss finish.  
l) Special abrasion technique on unmasked (relief) areas to create matte finish with a smooth stone.  
m) Remove masking and clean.  
n) It's finished.

NOTE: On the final small samples done for Roy, we worked on an imperfect solid piece of wood (as he requested)...that's why the grooves, holes and slight bend in the piece.

6. How were the reliefs and embossing done on both pieces?

Ans.: On Roy's sample, clear polyester in semi-solid layers were applied and sanded. On the Youngerman sample, Plywood was laminated to the wood, then sanded, before the various applications of polyester.

7. Could both sides of a screen or panel be finished in color (and special surfaces)?

Ans.: Yes, it's possible, but it's twice as expensive.

8. Could all colors contained within the surface of one piece be both matte and gloss finishes?

Ans.: Yes.

Well, we hope this gives you a better understanding of processes and capabilities of Laque D'Argent (Paris). However, if you have any further questions, do give us a call.

Incidentally, Pascal is planning a trip to New York in mid-May and would be available to meet with you to discuss the submission details.

Thanks for your continued interest and cooperation....

Cheers,



Craig Braun/Lana Jokel

CB:ked

cc: P. Las

Dear Ray:

Here are some technical information that were based on questions originally posed by Jasper. We hope these will be helpful to you as well.

For, Lana