

## FOCUS ON THE INTERACTIVE MEDIUMS USED WITH ATELIER INTERACTIVE

The traditional or “normal” fast drying mediums for use with Atelier Interactive are based on long held traditions, established since the 1960’s, when acrylics first came into use. These mediums are not alarmingly different from other good brands. We do, nevertheless, still work on improving them and we believe we have a simple and straightforward line up of traditional mediums which work well for standard acrylic painting techniques.

The new “interactive” mediums, which have been around in Australia since 2005, do genuinely behave in new ways that have been developed to enhance the wet blending ability of Atelier Interactive paint, making it easier to use.

### **CLEAR PAINTING MEDIUM**

This is the most popular painting medium, because it is easy to use both for edge blending and glazing in fast layering mode, and it still reacts to spraying with Unlocking Formula in wet blending mode. It can also be over painted when it is dry.

### **THE NEW HEAVY BODY PAINTING MEDIUM**

This new medium could become popular, because it has a heavy body consistency like the paint and can be used for edge blending, etc., but its main purpose is to keep your painting wet longer. You will still need to spray with Unlocking Formula, but not as often and when it dries, it has to cure. This medium should be useful for working in dry conditions or for large paintings, which can be difficult to keep in a wet state, because it enhances the Unlocking Formulas’ ability to rewet dry paint. In brief, it makes it easy to work all day in a wet-in-wet painting mode, if that is what you would like to do.

### **SLOW MEDIUM**

This medium was released years ago and has not become popular, because it is a bit tricky to use. You will not like using it if you have not read the instructions! Maybe we should have called it “Wet and Rewet Medium”, because if you work into a layer of a painting where you have used it, the wet paint will most likely melt into the under painting. The same thing occurs when an artist who is using oil paint with a medium that tacks up, over paints into the tacky oil paint. Have I succeeded in putting you off?

You should avoid using more Slow Medium on additional layers because it accumulates with what is already underneath, making layers tacky and difficult to work with. If you have used Slow Medium, you need to use just wet paint or add some water in the second

layer to facilitate blending and wet-in-wet painting.

Additionally, after the layer dries, it has to cure before you can over paint without picking up colour from the dry layer underneath. The curing process may take a couple of days to weeks depending on how much medium was used and climatic conditions. Oil painters would put their painting aside for a while and then over paint; perhaps this would be a good time to work on another painting.

### **THICK SLOW MEDIUM**

This is also an old timer from the interactive medium range which makes the paint behave rather like Golden Open. If you use it, you need to plan your painting “alla prima” (all in one go) because you cannot over paint, maybe for several days. Of course, Thick Slow Medium is excellent for outdoor sketching, but is not as popular for indoor painting..