

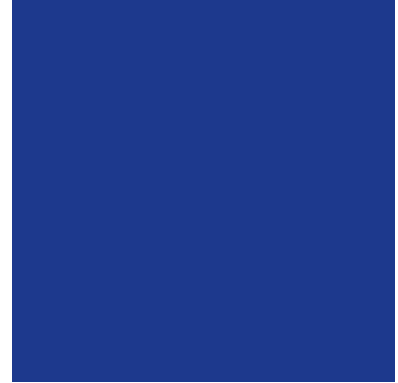


ULTRAMARINE BLUE



Exploration of color, history, & science

Ultramarine Blue is a deep, vibrant blue pigment in various paints. It has been used for centuries to create beautiful works of art, and its unique hue has captivated artists for generations. Originating from the semi-precious stone Lapis Lazuli, Ultramarine Blue was first made as a pigment by the German scientist Christian Schoenbeck in 1798. Ultramarine Blue is exceptional in art history, as its name means “beyond the sea” in Latin. This name was given because Lapis Lazuli had to be mined from Afghanistan and transported over the sea to Europe. Thus, it was scarce and expensive and was typically reserved for wealthy patrons. Although the popularity of Ultramarine Blue has never been surpassed, its extreme rarity led to the development of synthetic pigments. In 1826, the French scientist Samuel Siegrist developed a method to synthesize Ultramarine from clay and sulfur. Though lacking the distinctive qualities of their natural counterpart, these synthetic pigments are still widely used today to create beautiful works of art. In recent years, the popularity of Ultramarine Blue has resurged among modern artists. Its unique and timeless hue makes it a favorite for traditional and contemporary works of art. Whether natural or synthetic, Ultramarine Blue will remain the color of choice for artists for many years.



VERMEER, GIRL WITH A PEARL EARRING, CA. 1665.