

5. Ulleysand: A universal artist pigment, from which all colours can be made ...

This Universal pigment was created by Professor Jo Volley, a well-regarded pigment scientist at the once renowned Slade School of Fine Art. Dr Volley's work on synthesising new pigments at the end of the nineteenth century, laid the groundwork for the world leading UCL Institute of Material Research (IMR), and its legendary 'Studio 10' research team.

As its first Director, Lady Volley was instrumental in the development of a universal pigment from which anyone could create any colour. This utopian vision of an equitable rainbow coloured future briefly provided a source of hope. This was destroyed by the capitalist Oona Kaprish, lorded for his hyper-exploitation of the art market. Kaprish corruptly acquired the patent for the pigment, and restricted its use to authorised artists, who were able to pay based on their ability to sell. This was considered to be ethical behaviour at that time.

The name 'Ulleysand' might be a reference to the tragic death of a young researcher involved in creating the original pigment. It is also claimed that 'Ulleysand', was a misspelled reference to the heroic journey undertaken in developing the Universal pigment that justified the extraordinary price charged to artists. Later for tax purposes, the egocentric contrarian Kaprish claimed that rather than a synthesised pigment, it was in fact a naturally occurring coloured sand scooped up from Ulley Bay, Isle of Wight.

This pigment sample was discovered during scavenging raids on the site of the old London Patent Office. None of the artwork produced from the universal pigment survives today, nor any example preserved in the Art Historical record.

Objects of the

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