



Making Color

Egyptian blue



“Egyptian blue”

- Oldest synthetically produced pigment in world (3rd millennium BCE)
- Calcium copper silicate
- **The pigment is a synthetic form of the rare mineral cuprorivaite [2], and commonly also contains quantities of glass or quartz. It is made by heating to around 850-950C a mixture of a calcium compound (typically calcium carbonate), a copper-containing compound (metal filings or malachite), silica sand and soda or potash as a flux [3].**

(Philip McCouat, “Egyptian Blue: The Colour of Technology” *Journal of Art in Society*, www.artinsociety.com)



Wall painting with Egyptian blue, from Tomb of Nebamun 18th Dynasty (1567-1320 BCE).
British Museum



Temple in Dendera



Egyptian faience hippopotamus.
British Museum