



# Making Color

whites



# Lead white (“fake white,” “ceruse”)

- Most common white paint/pigment in Europe until 19<sup>th</sup> c.
- One of oldest artificially produced pigments
- Stack up sheets of lead and add acetic acid (wine), then add moisture and carbon dioxide (dung). White crust forms on sheets: wash then press into cakes. Seal in ceramic jars with vinegar and dung. Process takes 4-12 weeks.
- High likelihood of contracting lead poisoning (incurable). More dangerous to inhale than ingest.
- Can be combined with other colors for brighter tone.



# Dunhuang caves

- <http://public.dha.ac.cn/content.aspx?id=185436748917>
- Span 1000 years of art, oldest dating to 4<sup>th</sup> c.



# Lead white in cosmetics

- <https://www.fda.gov/cosmetics/productsingredients/potentialcontaminants/ucm388820.htm>