

CLAESSENS Production Steps

Step 1: Begin with raw linens



Artist's canvas is traditionally woven from 100% pure flax (linen), 100% pure cotton, 100% pure jute, a mix of linen and cotton or a mix of linen and jute. Nowadays, canvases are also made from synthetic raw materials such as viscose fiber and polyester.

This long-stemmed plant is harvested and then steeped in water. This makes it easier for the golden, soft fibers to be stripped from the woody bast. Flax is grown mainly in the district around the River Leie in the region where many famous Flemish painters have worked and where Claessens has always been based. Claessens principally produces canvas from flax. This provides the best quality and is by far the most durable. Of course, we work with the other materials as well and all canvases receive the same meticulous treatment according to traditional methods.



Step 2: Quality control



When the fabric arrives at Claessens, it is first checked with great care for any weaving faults. Abnormally thick threads and any unevenness are scrupulously removed.



Step 3: Sizing the canvas



We always apply 2 layers of synthetic adhesive. After each layer the canvas is dried in a warm-air oven.



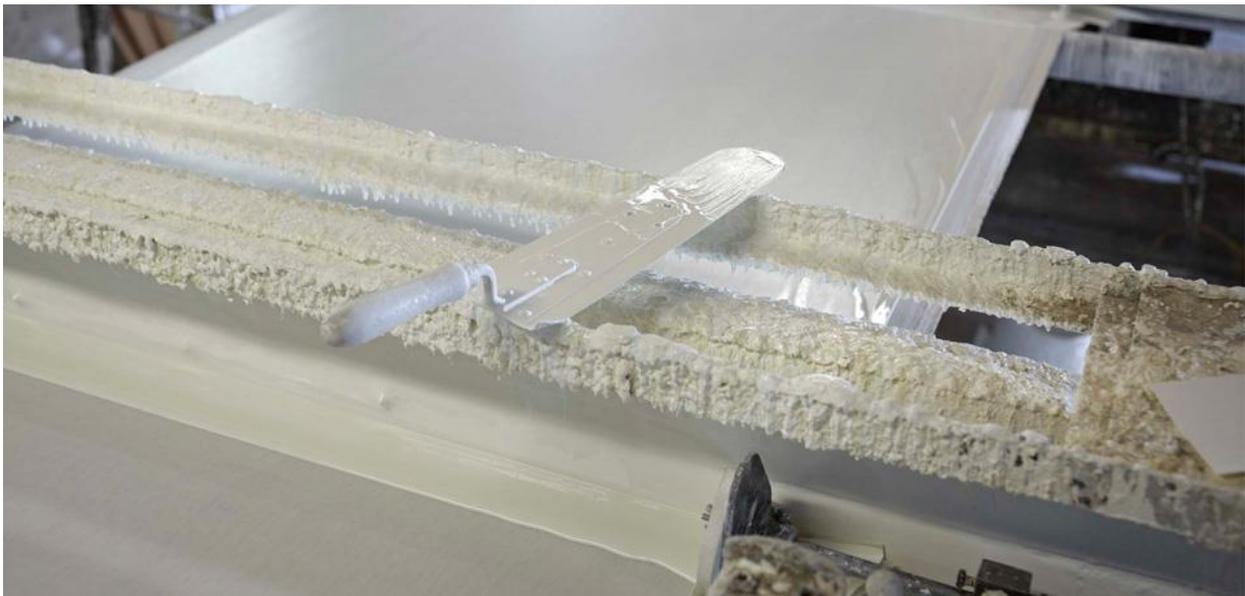
Step 4: Preparation of Claessens' Coatings

Depending on the type of canvas, we produce our own oil, acrylic or tempera paints



Step 5: Production of the canvas

Oil canvas production



For an 'oil canvas', zinc white is used as the primer, bound with linseed oil. The paint is applied on to the glued linen by passing 2 'knives' (1&2)
After that, we sand the canvas and apply a coating layer based on titanium white. Again passing the 2 'knives' and this time also rolled (3) to achieve the typical Claessens oil-primed canvas.



Drying process for oil-primed canvases



After the 1st primer, the canvas is placed in a drying room for three days where it air-dries naturally. Double-primed canvases undergo the same process once again. When the final coating is applied, the canvas then has to go back into the drying room for a further ten days.



Universal canvas production



Universal primed canvases are coated twice with an acrylic-based paint. This is done with only 1 'knife' and not rolled at the last stage.



Because this primer and coating are water-based, these canvases can be dried in the dry-air oven, where the water can evaporate more quickly.

Step 6: Final Inspection

The finished canvases are carefully inspected one last time before they are put on to 10m rolls and stocked in our warehouse.



Step 7: Storage and shipment

Here our rolls are packed in cardboard boxes or in individual tubes before shipment to the customer.

