All through the history of the art, artists have used oils (fixed and essential) in order hold the colour pigments together while protecting them against undesired changes, create consistency and preserve the pigments in drying to a though, flexible layer.

However, sufficient scientific knowledge is not available in the sense of properties Of essential oils as paint thinners in the field of painting art and their usage. In the present study, effects of four essential oils (lavender, oregano, clove leaf and turpentine) on total time required for complete drying, colour properties (L*, a, b*), composition volatiles (GC/MS) were investigated. For this purpose, essential oils were mixed with colour with ratio of 0.1 ml essential oil in 1g oil colour [white (W), yellow (Y), red (R) and blue until obtaining a smooth texture. The major volatile components found in essential oils were linalool (36.11%), linalyl acetate (33.620/0) for lavender oil; carvacrol (70.72%) for oregano oil; eugenol (84.91%) for clove leaf oil and a-pinene (88.55%) for turpentine. The shortest drying time was observed in W, Y and R and followed by B for lavender oil mixture. Different drying periods were found all colours and other essential oils while the longest one was belong to oregano containing ones. With respect to colour attributes, any important alterations in lightness (L*) among different colours, except white one, were not detected for different essential oils. For W, the highest L* was observed for turpentine where the lowest was belong to clove leaf. Oregano and clove leaf oils were found to cause slight increments in the yellowness of white paint (+b*). For yellow and blue pigments, the highest yellowness (+b k) and the highest blueness (-b*) were found for turpentine and lavender oil containing paints, respectively.

Thus, the study indicated that lavender has a great potential in paintings due to shortest drying time and the ability of bringing out characteristic properties of each colour compared to other essential oils.

Key words: Mediums, essential oils, colour, drying time and FFA composition