Claims:

1. A composite block article comprising:

a) 1 to 15 weight percent of a polyamide binder, and

b) 85 to 99 weight percent of interactive particles having an average particle diameter of from 0.1 to 3,000 microns, the weight percent based on the total of polyamide and interactive particles,

wherein said polyamide has an average particle size of between 1 and 50 microns, wherein the particle size distribution is such that 80% of the particles have a size between 0.5 times the average particle size and 2 (two) times the average particle size and wherein said polyamide is porous as measured by having a specific surface area of greater than 0.5 m2/g.

2. The composite block article of claim 1, wherein said polyamide is selected from the group consisting of PA 6, PA 11, PA 12, PA6.12, PA6.6, or any combination thereof.

3. The composite block article of claim 1, wherein said polyamide comprises polyamide 6 or polyamide 12.

4. The composite block article of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the average particle size of the polyamide binder is 1 to 22 microns.

5. The composite block article of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the polyamide binder has a melt viscosity of 10000 centipoise or greater.

6. The composite block article of any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the polyamide binder comprises at least 2.5 wt %, preferably at least 3 weight percent of the total weight of the composite block article.

7. The composite block article of any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the polyamide binder comprises at least 5 wt %, preferably at least 6 weight percent of the total weight of the composite block article.

8. The composite block article of any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the interactive particles comprise activated carbon.

9. The composite block article of any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the composite block article further comprises additional polymeric binders selected from polyolefins, polyesters, PVDF, and ethylene vinyl acetate.

10. The composite block article of any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the interactive particles comprise at least one of metallic particles of 410, 304, and 316 stainless steel, copper, aluminum

and nickel powders, ferromagnetic materials, activated alumina, activated carbon, carbon nanotubes, silica gel, acrylic powders and fibers, cellulose fibers, glass beads, various abrasives, common minerals such as silica, wood chips, ion-exchange resins, ceramics, zeolites, diatomaceous earth, polyester particles and fibers, and particles of engineering resins such as polycarbonate.

11. The composite block article of any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein the interactive particles comprise zeolites.

12. The composite block article of any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein said block has a fine retention as measured by transmittance of the first liter of filtered water of greater than 75% transmittance.

13. The composite block article of any one of claims 1 to 12, wherein the average particle size of the polyamide binder is from 1 to 12 microns, wherein said polyamide is porous as measured by having a specific surface area of greater than 1.4 m2/g.

14. The composite block article of any one of claims 1 to 13, wherein said article is a part of a carbon block system for water filtration, or industrial filtration of fluids.

15. The composite block article of any one of claims 1 to 14, wherein said article is a hybrid article further comprising a secondary filtration system.

16. A process for separating compounds from a fluid, comprising passing a fluid through the composite block article of any one of claims 1 to 15.

17. The process of claim 16, wherein said fluid comprises dissolved, or suspended materials capable of being separated.

18. The process of claim 17, wherein dissolved, or suspended materials capable of being separated is selected from the group consisting of particulates; biological and pharmaceutical active ingredients; organic compounds; acids, bases, hydrofluoric acid; cations of hydrogen, aluminum, calcium, lithium, sodium, and potassium; anions of nitrate, cyanide and chlorine; metals, chromium, zinc, lead, mercury, arsenic, copper, silver, gold, platinum, iron a; salts, sodium chloride, potassium chloride, sodium sulfate.

19. The process of any one of claims 16 to 18, wherein said fluid comprises a gas.

20. The process of any one of claims 16 to 18, wherein said fluid comprises an aqueous or non-aqueous liquid.

21. The process of any one of claims 16 to 18, wherein said fluid is selected from the group consisting of aqueous liquid, organic solvents, pharmaceutical or biological preparations, hydrocarbon base fluids, or blends thereof.

22. Use of the composite block article of any one of claims 1 to 15 as a separation/filtration device to separate a component from a fluid stream.