THE INVENTION CLAIMED IS

1. A composite radiation reflecting and absorbing composition, comprising:

a plurality of colloidal crystals, each said crystal comprising (1) radiation reflecting particles arranged in a colloidal array and (2) radiation absorbing particles dispersed in said crystals, such that said composition scatters radiation in a wavelength band in substantially all directions and absorbs radiation in another wavelength band.

2. The composite radiation reflecting and absorbing composition of claim 1, wherein said plurality of colloidal crystals are provided as aggregates of said crystals.

3. The composite composition of claim 2, wherein said aggregates further comprise a binder.

4. The composite composition of claim ~~2~~3, wherein said radiation absorbing particles are dispersed in said binder.

5. The composite composition of claim 4, wherein said radiation absorbing particles comprise a dark-colored pigment or dye.

6. The composite composition of claim 5, wherein said dark-colored pigment particles comprise carbon black or iron oxide.

7. The composite composition of claim 1, wherein said radiation absorbing particles comprise less than 10 wt.% of said crystal.

8. The composite composition of claim 7, wherein said radiation absorbing particles comprise less than 1 wt.% of said crystals.

9. The composite composition of claim 1, wherein said radiation absorbing particles are sized less than 100nm.

10 The composite composition of claim 1, wherein said radiation reflecting particles each comprise a shell defining an interior.

11. The composite composition of claim 1, further comprising a film-forming composition.