

Soft Pastel Exploration: Beginner-Advanced

Mountain Artists Guild

Tuesday-Thursday, March 2-4, 2010. 9-4:00 each day.

Soft pastels are fun to use, colorful, versatile, immediate, and very expressive. This workshop will include a thorough introduction to the medium for beginners—or refresher for experienced students—and an in-depth exploration into the variety of papers and application styles available to the pastel artist. Working directly from life and with photographic references, you will complete several thought-provoking exercises that provide greater understanding of the medium and its capabilities. I will tailor lessons to each participant's skill level and promise plenty of one-on-one interaction.

Please be aware that we will be using soft pastels (hard, medium or soft density) not oil pastels or Craypas. Be sure the product you buy or bring is the “chalk-like” type of pastel. Pastels can be expensive, but they last a long time and don't dry out like other painting mediums. Buy the largest set of pastels you can afford. It is a frustrating experience to be hampered in your art-making by having a very limited palette. **I require you to have at least 36 different colors of pastels for this class—but more is definitely better.** I may also have some individual sticks of Nupastels and Rembrandts available for purchase during the workshop so you can enlarge your basic set. I will be providing all of the paper you will be using for the projects (\$10 material fee), but feel free to bring additional paper. The other required materials are available at many art supply stores or online at Dick Blick, Jerry's Artarama, or Daniel Smith. Feel free to contact me directly if you have any concerns or questions. I look forward to meeting you!

~Kay Brathol-Hostvet

Supply List

Required:

- 1) **Pastel Sticks**, 36 different colors minimum (*see recommended brands below). Bring more if you have them. Do NOT bring: oil pastels, Craypas, iridescent pastels, cheap child/student-grade Alphacolor or Loew-Cornell pastels.
- 2) **Workable Fixative Spray** (Krylon, Lascaux, or Blair). Make sure the can says “workable.” I prefer Krylon.
- 3) **Masking tape**
- 4) **Small tray** to hold your chosen palette of colors while working (old cake pan, ice cream bucket lid, etc)
- 5) **Clean rag or washcloth** in a zip-lock bag for finger clean-up
- 6) **Kneadable eraser**
- 7) **Pencil and small sketchbook** or a few sheets of plain paper
- 8) **Small drawing board** (13 x 17, 15 x 16, 16 x 20” etc). A smooth hardboard or plywood panel cut to size is an inexpensive alternative to ready-made boards.
- 9) **Table or floor easel** that will hold your board upright (vertical) that you can easily transport. Or call the center to see if there are any available onsite.
- 10) **Newspapers** (three or four ordinary newspapers)
- 11) Your own **photographic references** in a variety of subjects (I will bring extras in case you have trouble with this). Please do not bring copyrighted materials (calendars, magazine images, etc).

Recommended (please do bring if you already own, but don't feel you need to go out and buy these):

- 1) Odorless turpentine. I use Weber Turpenoid—do not buy “Natural Turpenoid” --it isn't compatible with soft pastels.
- 2) Cheap ½” to 1” paint brush
- 3) Pastel pencils and sharpener or X-Acto knife or emery board (nail file) for sharpening them (not colored pencils)
- 4) Additional “chalk” pastels of different densities (a set of 48 Nupastel, set of 36 Rembrandt for example)

These are some of the brand names to look for in pastel products:

Soft Pastels - Hard to Medium density: Nupastels by Prismacolor (NOT Neopastels), Van Gogh, Holbein, Cretacolor, Pastels Girault. Avoid sets that cost less than \$15 for 24 colors as they are usually junk (sorry!)

Soft Pastels – Medium Soft to Extra-Soft density: Rembrandt, Great American Art Works, Art Spectrum, Daler-Rowney, Unison, Winsor and Newton, Schmincke, Sennelier, Gallery, Unison, Diane Townsend

Pastel Pencils: Conte, Carb-Othello (Schwan-Stabilo), Van Gogh, Faber-Castell, Derwent, Cretacolor

Pastel/Charcoal Papers (not needed for this class):

Strathmore 500 Charcoal, Canson Mi-Tientes, Canson Ingres, Amalfi, Fabriano Tiziano, Fabriano Ingres, Sennelier La Carte, Hahnemuhle Ingres, Art Spectrum Colourfix, Larroque, velour papers, U-Art, Wallis, and True Grit sanded.