Painting with Soft Pastels

Instructor: Sarah Canfield

Bring pastels, a newsprint pad and one small sheet of pastel or drawing paper to the first class. We will discuss materials such as papers and types of pastels in detail during the first class. Materials can be purchased locally at Jerry’s artist outlet in West Orange or through various online retailers such as Blick, Amazon, etc. Dakota Art Pastels online (dakotapastels.com) offers the widest variety of materials specific to soft pastel.

Materials needed:

- Soft pastels: Starter set of Rembrandt brand pastels (preferred) or student grade pastels
  - Rembrandt is an excellent professional brand of pastel at a modest price point. Students with experience may prefer other professional grade pastels such as Sennelier, Schminke, Unison, etc. if desired
  - Student grade pastels can be purchased at both art and craft supply stores. These pastels are a less expensive choice for beginners that would like to get a taste for the medium before making further choices regarding materials.
- Pastel Paper:
  - 1 package of 6, Pastel Premier paper size 12"x16", medium grit in white, buff or Italian clay. Note: Pastel Premier also offers a sample pack of 6 sheets of 8x10 paper at a modest price
  OR
  - 6 individual sheets of your choice of sanded pastel paper, watercolor or printmaking paper in 12x16 or larger in white, buff, or grey
- 2B Pencil and a plastic eraser such as Staedtler/Mars brand
- Disposable gloves
- Large newsprint pad
- Glassine, or wax paper to cover pastel paintings
- Original photographs taken by you (cell phone photographs are just fine)

Optional materials:

- A larger set of pastels, or additional single sticks to try out. There are many brands of soft pastels available in different levels of hardness (Sennelier, Schminke, Unison and various others) at a range of price points that we will discuss. Most are offered in sets that are less expensive than buying individual sticks.
- Set of nupastels, conte crayons or pastel pencils
- Small shallow container with lid with rags or foam to cushion bottom (could be a disposable take out tray, for instance)
- Alternate papers/surfaces such as watercolor or printmaking papers, larger sized papers and pastel boards, or stretched canvas used in conjunction with acrylic grounds for pastel
- Q-tips, cotton balls, tortilions for blending

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