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Pastel Class Suggested Materials List

Soft Pastels-This class is concentrating on soft pastels. There are many wonderful brands on the market and it is fun to experiment and find the ones you like.

If you do not own any pastels, as a good starter set, I do recommend Rembrandt pastels. Many brands also now carry half stick sets which allow you to get a good range and amount of colors for a lower price. Always try to have some neutrals and darks in your selection. Some other brands are Great American Artworks, Schminke, Sennelier, Unison, Terry Ludwig, to name a few. (Do not use the "school brand" cheap pastels as they will not blend and their colors are horrible and will leave you frustrated. And I would not use Pan Pastels to start, either.)

As we move forward, we can have a discussion on the different brands and their attributes.

Do not use NuPastel, Cretacolor or Faber Castell as a starter set as they are a much harder pastel. If you own a box of any of these, they are a good supplement to the softer pastels and feel free to bring them along with any additional pastels you own. They are wonderful for sharp details, especially in portraits. It's best to have one box that carries your pastels, such as a Heilman Box.

Pastel Paper- recommended brands- Bring at least a few sheets to start of one of these varieties. (If you choose color sheets, try to stay with a pretty neutral tone.) Uart Sanded Pastel Paper-I like 400 or 500 grade, Canson Mi-teintes "touch"-allows underpainting, (you can bring "regular" Canson Mi-teintes, but be aware you cannot under paint on this), La Carte, Wallis Sanded Pastel Paper are some recommendations. Some of these are also available in pads and mounted on archival boards.

Drawing Board to attach your paper to.

Masking tape and/or large clips, such as bulldog clips, to hold paper to board.

Soft Rags- (I really recommend cloth diapers) or Viva pick a size paper towels

Small Sketch pad

Charcoal or Carbon pencils or vine charcoal

Rubber Finger Cots Protectors-CVS carries these or Latex gloves

Kneaded eraser and white eraser

Old flat bristle oil paint brush that you do not mind will get damaged or a really cheap new one. Approx. size #10. This brush will be used for erasing.

small box of watercolor or isopropyl rubbing alcohol and inexpensive brushes for underpainting to help hasten your painting process and a synthetic brush approx. 1/2" to 1". I like the angled ones, but you may prefer flats.

Tracing paper sheets or Glassine to cover and transport your painting home and back

Old shirt, smock or apron

Portable easel-especially when working plein aire- (there are also a small selection of easels available when working at the NRAS hall)

Reference material- Your own good quality glossy color photos, (I also recommend printing your reference once in full color and once in Black and White-the black and white will help with your understanding of your values.) You may also bring an iPad with your reference on it, but please make sure it is fully charged and you have your own stand or your own hanging device for viewing. For the first class, please bring a few landscape or seascape references that you have been considering. As the class progresses, we can introduce still life, and even delve into portraits if you like.

If we are working plein aire, I also recommend:

Hat

easel umbrella

Water for your hydration

bug spray

baby wipes for washing your hands during and after

Small viewfinder