

Brathol-Hostvet Studio
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****Important! Please read this well before the class date!****

Soft Pastel Adventure: All Levels

September 14-16, 2021
Land O' Lakes Arts

General Class Information

Immerse yourself in color! The soft pastel medium is versatile, immediate, and expressive, and allows you to combine the best of drawing and painting. We'll take an in-depth look into the variety of pastels, papers, application styles, and techniques available to the pastel artist. Absolute beginners can be comfortable in knowing they will get the basics in the first day! In addition to technical skill development, advanced students will be encouraged to consider content, theme and emotion in their paintings. Working from both photographic references in the studio and directly from life—plein air or still life—all students will complete thought-provoking exercises that provide greater understanding of the medium and its capabilities. I specialize in adapting to each participant's personality and skill level and provide plenty of one-on-one interaction, as well as doing frequent demonstrations. Useful handouts, a variety of pastel papers for the exercises, and many other materials will be provided.

This class will be using soft (chalk-like) pastels, not oil pastels or Craypas. Soft pastels come in varying hardnesses from quite firm (like NuPastels) to very soft (like Schminke). Pastels are expensive, but they last a long time and don't dry out like other painting mediums. *I highly recommend that you get both hard and soft pastels, and buy the largest sets you can afford.* It is a frustrating experience to be hampered in your art-making by having a very limited palette. At the very minimum, get a set of 36 different colors for this class. If your budget is very limited, your best bet would be to buy a single set of Rembrandt half sticks in the largest size you can afford (you'll get twice as many colors for the same price), or get a larger set of Nupastels (48 or 96) and a set of 12 or 18 basic colors in one of the soft brands. I may have some individual pastel sticks on hand (Rembrandts and Nupastels) and some papers for you to purchase at cost in case anyone has problems getting supplies; contact me early to find out if I have what you need. Please bring a checkbook or cash to pay for any extra supplies you might want to purchase from me (beyond your material fee collected by LOLA). I will provide the papers for specific exercises as well as having some extra drawing boards, tripod easels, and miscellaneous supplies on hand. *Please feel free to email me with any questions.* My contact information is listed above. Please see page 2 for the supplies to bring.

Weather permitting, we may be outside for part of one day. *Be sure to bring a hat or visor, a water bottle, insect repellent and sunscreen.* I am looking forward to a creative adventure with you at LOLA!

~ Kay

Recommended Products (my favorites are noted with an asterisk):

Soft Pastels - hard to medium-hard density: *Nupastels by Prismacolor (not Neopastels), Caran D'Ache, Van Gogh, Cretacolor, Jack Richeson Semi-Hard (at least 24 hard sticks if also bringing softer pastels; at least 36 sticks if it is the only product you are bringing).

Soft Pastels – medium-soft to extra-soft density: *Rembrandt, Holbein, Blick Artist's Pastels (**not** square Blick Pastels), Pastels Girault, *Art Spectrum, Mount Vision, BlockX, Daler-Rowney, Gallery Soft, *Terry Ludwig, Diane Townsend Terrages, Jack Richeson Soft, Diane Townsend Soft, *Unison, *Sennelier, Blue Earth, *Great American Art Works, Girault, *Schmincke

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

Heavy and Sanded Pastel Papers and Boards: *U-Art, True Grit, Ampersand sanded, Richeson sanded, *Art Spectrum Colourfix, Clairefontaine PastelMat, Art Spectrum Colourfix Smooth, Canson Mi-Tientes Touch, Art Spectrum Colourfix Supertooth board, *Pastel Premier, Sabretooth, Sennelier LaCarte, Pastelbord

In addition to shopping locally, you can order supplies online at Blick, Dakota Art Pastels, Jerry's Artarama, Utrecht, etc.

SUPPLY LIST

Required:

_____ Set of **soft pastels**—hard, medium and/or soft density—36 sticks minimum; more is definitely better. I urge you to have both hard and soft pastels for the most success. *Do not bring oil pastels or dusty school-grade pastels like Alphacolor, Heritage, SMI, Artists Loft, Blick (square) or Loew-Cornell.* *Recommended brands are listed on page 1.

_____ **Workable fixative spray** (Krylon recommended). Make sure the can says *workable fixative*, and is not a final fixative, varnish, etc.

_____ **Masking tape**, ordinary beige (not blue or green painters tape or drafting/artist tapes).

_____ A **pastel “palette”**—any small pan, pastel box lid, or shallow basket to contain the colors you are using.

_____ A plein air-type field **easel** (French) or lightweight floor easel (that can hold a drawing board upright) OR folding camp stool or chair and TV tray to hold your supplies for working outside OR Heilman box and tripod stand (www.heilmandesigns.com). There will be table-top tripod easels in the studio for your use.

_____ **Rags** or washcloths in a zip-lock bag for finger clean-up. Bring several to rinse out and reuse.

_____ **Pencil and small sketchbook**

_____ Small to medium size **drawing board** (11 x 14, 15 x 16, 14 x 18, 16 x 20, 18 x 24). Hardboard cut to size is an inexpensive way to go; Gatorboard works great, too. There will be extra boards in the classroom. Padding your board with multiple layers of newspaper is a wise idea.

_____ **Bag, knapsack, portfolio, or tool or tackle box** to carry your supplies. Check out Heilman boxes for those more serious about plein air work: Heilmandesigns.com

_____ 2 or more sheets **heavy-weight pastel paper**, sanded or micro-coated in the colors of your choice in size range of 9 x 12 to 16 x 20. Do not bring traditional lightweight papers like regular Canson Mi-Tientes or Strathmore 500 for this class. Feel free to mix up colors and types, or if you already have your favorite, bring large sheets to cut down (bring your own old scissors or a utility knife and blades). For beginners, I recommend getting a packet of mixed colors of Art Spectrum Colourfix Sanded or a large sheet of U-Art paper in either 400 or 500 grit. Other recommended brands are listed on page 1.

_____ **Glassine**, clean newsprint, or waxed paper for protecting your finished works.

_____ Your own **photographic reference prints** (*printed out, not on a digital device!!!*). I will bring an assortment of my own photographs in case you have trouble with this. *Please do not bring copyrighted materials* (note cards, calendars, magazine images). Coming up with your own inspiration is an important part of your artistic growth. Fair warning: I am a stickler about this.

Advanced students only: I encourage you to bring specific goals in writing.

Recommended/Optional:

_____ Table or floor easel that will hold your board completely upright (or slightly beyond vertical) that you can easily transport. There will be some tripod table easels on hand if you don't have your own (they do not go completely vertical). If you have a French plein air easel, that will also work inside.

_____ X-Acto knife or hand-held pencil sharpener if bringing pastel pencils (pastel pencils are not required. Only bring if you already have them).

_____ Paper towels, wet wipes, and hand lotion

_____ Digital camera or smartphone

_____ Kneadable rubber eraser (gray, soft eraser) and retractable eraser (looks like a fat pen).

_____ Small rug or rubber mat to stand on while working upright (also helps protect dropped pastels)

_____ Artists color wheel

_____ View finder (commonly sold as View Catcher, gray with sliding viewing area)