

Class Supply List

Course Title: Pastels for Landscape and Figures

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The emphasis in this class is sketching and understanding Pastels, how to apply them and how to get the best effects on various surfaces.

Soft Pastels (not oil pastels) are much less expensive if you buy a small box of basic colors, rather than individual color sticks. Try to find a small set that has basic flesh tones – White, pink, ocher, brown, gray, black, yellow, a few reds, a few blues, and a light and middle green should be all you need. Optional colors could be a pale purple, sienna, and orange, as these are not primary but secondary hues.

Please keep in mind that, with Pastels, each hue you use is applied over a color base (paper color) or the underlying pastel colors. Unlike paint, where you mix colors on the palette, with Pastels the color you put down is often the end result. So the more colors you have, the wider color gamut you can apply. However, you don't need every color they sell, but enough to get a full range for landscapes, still life and skin tones. Don't get overwhelmed at the art store; just pick out the basic set, as described above, and keep it to a minimum of 10-15 hues. Part of the joy of Pastel is the individual colors, but you'll learn more using basic colors; how to get mixed color effects and how to build up layers for atmosphere, texture and depth.

You will probably want to pick up a few extra colors after the first class or two, once you get a feel for the medium and what colors you will need. Good pastel sticks can run between \$1.50-2 each. Nu Pastels are a little less. **Don't buy chalk**, its brittle and does not cover the underlying colors.

When you're at the art store, do a quick test on a scrap of paper, usually there's one near the pastels. If the color covers well and doesn't crumble, then it's a quality pastel.

You might enjoy **Conte sticks**, if you haven't tried them. They are not as opaque as Pastel, which makes them good for sketching in rough areas or for complete drawings. I prefer Conte with slight wax built in so that I have more control over the line without it being too soft.

Charcoal works well with most pastels, if you want to apply the base drawing in charcoal then fill it in with pastel color.

A **kneaded eraser** is essential. These are small, usually gray, and wrapped in plastic. Great for pulling out highlights.

One can of **Krylon Workable Fixative**. This is a spray for pastels that will help keep them on the surface so that you can work over them as needed. ALWAYS SPRAY FIXATIVE OUTSIDE.

We may get into **Oil Pastels** later in the class. You don't need to buy them unless you want to try the difference. They are very rich, leave a clean line, and you can use them over oil washes to get some unique effects. I'll do at least one demo with these to show how they differ from traditional dry pastels.

SURFACES

Color paper is ideal for Pastel. Canson is a good brand. Get a few sheets of middle-value (not dark or light, but tan or soft blue-gray). You can also try some of the specialty papers made for pastels; light fine sandpaper, or one of the new stocks with some grit to them. The tooth, or grain, is what helps the soft pastels grab and leave opaque strokes, much like painting. (I'll bring in a variety of samples to show you for demos I do in the class.)

Good drawing paper, like Strathmore Alexis, is also fine if you want to start with a pure white surface.

You will also want to wear a smock, pastels can be messy at first.

Please contact the instructor at the email address above if you have any questions!

Bring this list to the art store, they can be very helpful and often times there may be a 10% discount at some stores if you are a BC student as well. Also, all basic materials are available at the BC main campus bookstore (TEL: 425-564-2285 or check out the website for store hours: <http://bcc.collegestoreonline.com/>).