

SOFT PASTEL PAINTING FOR BEGINNERS: FALL COURSE DESCRIPTION: (rev. 08-19)

This course will introduce absolute beginners and artists experienced with other art media to the art--and fun!--of painting with soft pastels. Structured class time will cover the use of materials, layering methods and applications, color theory and value development. This is not an open workshop.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND SEQUENCE:

This course is designed for the student who wants to learn how to paint with soft pastels. Basic materials will be provided (by the teacher) at the beginning of the semester, but students will be expected to purchase their own soft pastels, pastel paper and any tools they want to use. The semester will begin with an introduction of the various brands of soft- pastels and pastel papers, allowing students to experience first-hand the attributes of color, quality and texture. In addition, there will be an in-depth lecture and discussion of the history of pastel painting and the artists who brought it into public favor.

Throughout the semester, topics taught will include methods of pastels strokes and use of texture, color theory and use of value management, importance of light placement, composition and perspective. Painting areas will include landscapes and seascapes, still-lives, florals, trees, skies and clouds, animals, portraits and more, depending on the speed of the students in mastering theories and techniques.

Students may have time to paint independently AFTER doing structured class activities, but should not expect to work independently throughout the class, as if it were a workshop. Students will not be required to produce work that must be framed for public viewing, but will be encouraged to learn and have fun with their painting! However, throughout the semester, all class members will receive individual instructor attention and will be encouraged to observe and appreciate other students' work while in class. Those interested in learning more elaborate techniques will be encouraged to sign up for advanced classes or work independently with or without mentoring.

By the end of the semester, students will be able to use their materials to independently produce their own works of art and will be able to call themselves Pastelists!