

## Pastel Painting for Beginners – Course Outline

### **Week 1** Introduction, Materials, Simple drawing

#### Introduction - Sally

Welcome students, course outline, class rules, etc.

Ask students why they are here?

What experience in painting do you have?. Have they ever painted in pastels?

History of Pastel Painting. Show examples of famous artists work - painter's such as Degas (which everyone is familiar with) as well as lesser known artists. Also show some examples of leading pastel artists of today.

#### Materials - Pastels - Peggy

What is pastel? – pure pigment.

Types of pastels: hard, soft and pastel pencils.

Explain how different pastels are used to advantage.

Show sets of various pastel brands and set of browns from Dakota that has a stick from each of the brands they sell. Encourage them to try the different brands.

**Pass out color charts to students.**

**Pass out and explain Resource List and Dakota catalogs.**

#### Materials, Cont. - Paper – Sally

Show different types of surfaces that can be used for pastel.

Tell them why they should begin with Canson paper. Show difference between rough and smooth side of Canson paper. Show other brands of paper that are available.

Explain advantage of using a mid-value neutral color paper.

Show how pastel colors look on different colored papers.

**Class exercise - Pass out three examples of colored to students and have them use the same colors on each sheet and compare.** (See pg 36 of Pastel Workbook.)

**Class exercise - Paint fruit or vegetables on a mid-grey paper (Peggy to supply).**

See pg 38 of Pastel Workbook of pg 19-20 of The Pastelist's Year.)

**Remind students to bring in photo references of something they would like to paint each week.**

### **Week 2 - Making Marks – Peggy**

Show about half of "Pastel Workbook" Disk One.

**Do exercises from Lesson One "Making Marks", pgs. 16-25. PW. Use dark to mid-value grey paper. (These are the same exercises demonstrated on the DVD.)**

Show completed exercises from pgs 34-29, Pastel Made Easy.

**Consider making up an exercise page for them to do on their own. ???**

If there is any time left, do Lesson Two from PW – "Inspiration from a Master" about copying a Cezanne using mostly side strokes or a Van Gogh using mostly linear strokes. This is something they can start in class and finish at home or we could use the exercise as a separate lesson preferable early in the course.

### **Week 3 - Sally**

Options: 1. Show the first part of the Greg Biolchini video or...  
2. Show 7<sup>th</sup> part of "Pastel Workshop" DVD One, a vegetable composition of peppers and mushrooms that is similar to Lesson 3, pg. 30 from PW.  
Show pictures of pastel still life paintings from Pastel Journal or books.

**Exercise - Do a still life set-up and encourage students to complete a good value sketch beforehand.**

### **Week 4 - Value and Color Theory – Peggy**

Show first part of "Pastel Workbook" DVD as it relates to Color Theory and Value. This is no more than 25-30 minutes

**Give students of RMK's value scale to use in their work.**

**Exercise – make a value chart using different related colors if necessary.**

Tell students about some of the things we learned in Susan Ogilvie's workshop about layering pastels to achieve neutrals that will not be muddy.  
Show **layering** and talk about color harmony in painting.

**Exercise – do a sketch using four or 5 colors of different values. Students may use their own reference photo of work from a still-life set-up that Peggy needs to set up.**

### **Week 5 - Starting a Painting and more about Surfaces - Peggy**

Show packet of surfaces from Dakota. Also, show some sanded colored surfaces made from matboard or foamcore.

Show second part of "Pastel Workbook" DVD – A Greek Village. This is 24 minutes.

**Exercise – do a simple landscape on two different colors of paper. See pg. 36-37, PW.**

### **Week 6 - Composition and Value Studies – Sally**

### **Week 7 - Basics of Landscape Composition - Sally**

See Lesson 6, PW for most of information about painting a landscape. Emphasize importance of doing thumbnail sketches.  
Demonstrate blocking in a painting.

**Exercise – Students begin a fairly simple landscape. They should provide reference photo.**

**Week 8 – Complete landscape painting and critique.**

**Weeks 9-13 – Demonstrations by painters such as Kyoto Oto, Marcy Wheeler, Dawn McCord, Cynthia Miller**