Visual Art Classes

Course: Painting with Pastels: A Journey Through the Seasons
Program # 3450-16-LAAS
8 Thursdays, September 24-November 12, 2015, 10 am-12:30 pm
UW Arboretum Visitors Center, Rm 2, 1207 Seminole Hwy

Instructor: Kathleen Heinen
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A welcome note from your instructor:
I am looking forward to teaching Painting with Pastels this semester. We will explore how to express each season's unique light, shadows and colors using soft pastels. I will demonstrate various pastel techniques while utilizing different types of papers and boards. I will discuss composition, color theory and aerial perspective.

All levels are welcome, beginners and more experienced artists. Feel free to email or call me with any questions regarding materials or course content.

Tips for success:
Students should come to the first class prepared to paint.

Because of the wide variety of pastel materials available and many variations in approach to painting with pastels I encourage you to experiment and find what works best for you.

Please gather photos of spring, summer, winter and fall as reference and inspiration. You can use hard-copy photos and/or bring your laptop or iPad to work from. Use photos you have taken yourself if possible.

It is best to work from a photo that doesn't have flat black areas in the shadows.

Materials Fee: (Fees paid directly to instructor for course materials provided by instructor)

Basic fee: None
Optional materials for purchase: None
Supply List (Bring your own)
Note: All supplies are suggestions. Mention of a brand or retailer should not be considered UW-Madison endorsements. Students may make substitutions.

Pastels (note: not oil pastels)
Pastels vary in hardness which is useful for different stages of a painting. I would recommend at a minimum purchasing a set of hard pastels like Nu Pastels and a set of medium or soft pastels. You may want to supplement the sets with some warm and cool neutrals and grays
  • Hardest: pastel pencils
  • Hard: example, Nu Pastel sticks
  • Medium: example, Rembrandt
  • Soft: example, Sennelier
  • Very Soft: example, Schmincke and Diane Townsend

Pastel paper and/or pastel board of your choice
There is a wide selection of pastel paper and board for purchase that come in a variety of colors and textures. Some popular brands are Canson Mi-Teintes and Fabriano. Also, UART and Wallis sanded papers. I would recommend at a minimum purchasing a set of hard pastels like Nu Pastels and a set of medium or soft pastels. You may want to supplement the sets with some warm and cool neutrals and grays.

Miscellaneous
  • Plastic or newsprint to cover tables
  • Table easel for working upright
  • Drawing board(s), any piece of wood that can support your paper. I would recommend a smooth piece of hardboard cut to several inches larger then your paper size. example: cut board to 15" x 19" to fit a 12" x 16" sheet of paper
  • Masking tape
  • Workable spray fixative
  • Drawing pencil, small sketchbook, kneaded eraser
  • Gloves or skin barrier cream
  • Dust mask
  • Bristle brush
  • Tissues, towels, rags
  • Landscape photos you have taken yourself (see note under Tips for success)