



Visual Art Classes

Course: Pastels: Essential Techniques

September 16 - November 4, 2020

8 Wednesdays, 6:00-8:30pm

Online

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A welcome note from your instructor:

I am excited to explore the creative possibilities of soft pastel together! Whether you're a beginner dipping your toes into art or an experienced painter looking to brush up your skills, this class is a great way to learn something new and have fun with this versatile medium.

I'll demonstrate a variety of pastel techniques to spark your creativity, and provide individualized feedback to help you achieve your goals. You'll hone your observational skills while working from simple still life setups and your own photo references. As we try new things and experiment, we'll touch on art concepts such as color theory and composition to create a solid foundation for your skills. We'll also get inspired by looking at pastel works by historical and contemporary artists.

Tips for success:

Pastels are available in a wide variety of brands and colors. As you gain experience, it's a great idea to try different brands and expand the number of pastels in your collection. However, you do NOT need to have a large collection of pastels to begin.

I recommend 18-24 sticks as a good starting point—this will give you a variety of hues, plus some lighter tints and darker shades to work with. If this is cost-prohibitive, I recommend at least 12 sticks. Recommended brands: Prismacolor Nupastel and Rembrandt are good quality and affordable. Other high-quality brands include Sennelier, Unison, Great American, Art Spectrum, and Schmincke, some of which offer half-stick sets for a more affordable option.

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.

Required supplies:

- Artist-quality soft pastels (NOT oil pastels). At least 12 sticks; 18-24 is recommended
- Pastel paper (I recommend a pad of Canson Mi-Tientes for a good quality, affordable option. Other choices: Art Spectrum Colourfix, UArt, Pastelmat). For variety, you may wish to try sanded paper (has a textured surface) as well as toned paper (colors other than white)
- Kneaded eraser and/or white plastic eraser
- Graphite pencils and/or charcoal (vine, compressed, or pencil)
- Paper towels or cleaning rags

Optional items:

- Latex/nitrile gloves (to keep hands clean)
- Dust mask
- Blending tools: chamois, blending stumps/tortillions
- Drawing board (to hold paper while working)
- Workable fixative

