

# INTRODUCTION TO SOFT PASTELS

Edna M Kunkel

In this day-long session, you'll learn the basics of "chalk" pastels, including why they're not really chalk at all, how the different brands and consistencies of sticks can be used to their best advantage, methods to build out an underpainting to simplify painting, and how to apply the pastels using different strokes and application methods. The session will be very hands-on and will include tips on how to achieve fine lines, blend successfully without losing vibrance, and see how different surfaces work with soft pastels.



## Instructor supply list

The instructor will provide the following:

- Variety of papers, 3-5 sheets per student (5x7, 8x10, 6x6 or 8x8 inches, mix-and-match)
- A variety of soft pastel brands
- Charcoal and drawing supplies
- Blending mediums including Odorless Turpenoid, rubbing alcohol, and water
- Additional blending tools including brushes, silicone shapers, and pastel pencils
- Fixatives
- Reference images
- And more!

## Student supply list

You only need to bring your enthusiasm and a small set of materials of soft pastels with 12 or more colors—. Be sure that your set includes a broad range of colors like red, yellow, blue, orange, green, purple, brown, and a set of three related hues that can be used for a value scale (black, grey, and white; light blue, middle blue, and dark blue; etc.). This class is for education: your materials can be student or artist quality. Here's what you should bring:

1. Pastels:
  - a. One soft pastel set (12 or more, can be full or half sticks):
    - Art Spectrum, Blick, Blockx, Faber-Castell Studio, Great American, Mount Vision, Mungyo Gallery, Rembrandt, Richeson Handmade, Schmincke, Sennelier, Terry Ludwig, Unison, Yarka
  - b. Medium to hard pastels (3 or more; can be any brand of pastel pencils):
    - Cretacolor Pastel Carré, Caran d'Ache Pastel Cubes, Prismacolor NuPastel, Richeson Semi-Hard, Van Gogh Hard Pastels
2. erasers (plastic, vinyl, kneaded)
3. blending tools (stumps, tortillions, Q-tips, makeup sponges)
4. craft/X-acto knife to sharpen sticks or excise fine lines
5. drawing board or clipboard (must hold at least an 8x10 sheet of paper)
6. masking/painters/drafting tape
7. Optional:
  - Color wheel
  - Full color reference image from one photo of your choice, on paper or on a digital device