

Kay Brathol-Hostvet Art Workshops

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Spring Plein Air Painting in Soft Pastel

Whispering Woodlands

May 21 and/or May 22, 2010

9-4:30 each day

Take one or both days! Pastel is perfect for depicting the various textures and fresh colors of the spring landscape and is a very portable medium so it is ideal for plein air work at lovely Whispering Woodlands. I will demonstrate several techniques that are especially helpful for outdoor work. Each day, you will complete two small paintings that can be used as studies for larger studio works or might stand alone as plein air masterpieces. We may go off-site (but close by) for some of the day. If bad weather, we will work in the studio (with a view) from photographs or a nature-inspired still life.

This class will be using soft pastels, not oil pastels or Craypas. Be sure the product you buy or bring is the "chalk-like" type of pastel. Pastels are expensive, but they last a long time and don't dry out like other painting mediums. Buy the largest set of pastels you can afford! It is a frustrating experience to be hampered in your art-making by having a very limited palette. **I require you to have a set of at least 36 different colors of pastels for this class, plus some specific colors if they aren't in your set.** I will have some individual sticks of "landscape colors" in pastel on hand, and possibly small sets of Nupastels for you to purchase at my cost so don't fret if you don't think you have a necessary color in your set. All paper will be provided. I will also bring some extra papers for sale. Feel free to call me at home or email me if you have questions or concerns about the workshop or supplies. I am looking forward to *perfectly lovely time with you at Whispering Woodlands!* ***Be sure to bring a hat or visor, sunscreen, water bottle, and insect repellent.**

-Kay

Supply List

Required:

- 1) Set of pastels—firm or soft density (36 minimum—more is better). Please do not bring oil pastels, iridescent soft pastels, or cheap student-grade Loew Cornell, SMI, Heritage or Alphacolor brand pastels. These colors are landscape necessities (they may or may not be in your set already): ochre or raw sienna, goldenrod-type yellow, cream or pale yellow, cerulean (sky) blue, several shades of olive/leaf greens, dark greens (Nupastel Bottle Green #298 is great!).
- 2) Workable Fixative spray (Krylon, Lascaux, or Blair). Make sure it is "workable." My favorite is Krylon.
- 3) Masking tape
- 4) A pastel "palette"—any small flat box, pan, or basket to contain the colors you are using at the time
- 5) A portable camp stool or folding chair (may not need if you have a standing plein air easel)
- 6) Rag or washcloth in a zip-lock bag for finger clean-up
- 7) Bag, knapsack, portfolio, or tool or tackle box to carry your supplies outside.

Highly Recommended:

- 1) Plein Air-type field easel (French) or lightweight floor ease that can hold a drawing board upright.
- 2) Small drawing board padded with several layers of newsprint
- 3) Small sketchbook and pencil
- 4) Paper towels

Optional:

TV tray or small stool for your supplies (if you have a field-type easel, you probably don't need this)

Additional soft pastels

Pastel pencils

X-Acto knife

Odorless turpentine or mineral spirits— just a small amount in a small tight-lidded jar. I use Weber Odorless Turpenoid. Do NOT buy Natural Turpenoid as it isn't compatible with pastels.

½ - 1" cheap paintbrush

These are specific products you can look for:

Soft Pastels - Hard to Medium density: Nupastels by Prismacolor (NOT NEOPASTELS), Van Gogh, Holbein, Cretacolor, Pastels Girault

Soft Pastels - Soft to Extra-Soft density: Rembrandt, Great American Art Works, Art Spectrum, Daler-Rowney, Unison, Windsor and Newton, Schmincke, Sennelier, Gallery, Unison

Pastel Pencils: Conte, Carb-Othello (Schwan-Stabilo), Van Gogh, Faber-Castell, Derwent, Cretacolor

Pastel/Charcoal Papers:

For plein air work, I personally prefer Ersta (U-Art) sanded or Wallis sanded papers—they come in off-white, grey and buff colors. Other especially good papers are the Art Spectrum Colourfix ones. Neutral colors (grays, tans, buff) work best, but it can be fun to try black or bright colors, as well—I'll show you how! Paper is provided for this workshop, but here are some you might want to get for later:

Traditional Pastel Papers: Strathmore 500 Charcoal, Canson Mi-Tientes, Amalfi, Fabriano Tiziano, Fabriano Ingres, Hahnemuhle Ingres, Larroque

Heavier and “toothier” Sanded Pastel Papers: velour papers, Sennelier La Carte, Art Spectrum Colourfix (sanded), Ersta or U-Art sanded paper (only available from Daniel Smith, check out danielsmith.com), Wallis sanded, True Grit (Art Supply Warehouse)