PAINTING with PASTELS

Cal Poly Campus
4 Saturdays, 9:00am –12:00pm

Instructor: Tricia Reichert

Description of the Program

SOFT PASTELS are the purest form of artist color, made almost exclusively from pure pigment with only enough binder to allow them to be formed into useable sticks. Whether you are a beginner starting your study of art, or an advanced artist looking to explore a different medium, this four week class will provide you with a strong foundation in the creation of paintings using soft pastels. This is a painting medium that is direct and easy to use.

In this class, through weekly demonstrations, you will find out how to paint a landscape, a simple street scene, a still life subject with flowers and a seascape in soft pastel. Other painting considerations that will be covered include the drawing for painting, choosing color for harmony, color value relationships and the choice and arrangement of the subject matter for painting.

Objectives:

By the end of this course you should know.
♦ Many of the things that you need to know and understand about painting landscapes, buildings and seascapes
♦ How to make the initial drawing needed for your painting studies.
♦ How to start each painting with a tonal color ‘lay in’.
♦ How to recognize the ‘tonal values,’ (lights and darks), in the colors needed to make your subjects look three dimensional and then how to paint them.
♦ How to depict the different textures you will need for all of these subjects
♦ How to paint the ‘whole picture’ from the beginning.
♦ How to store, mat and frame a painting made with pastel.
♦ Where to find more information about painting with this media.

Session Synopsis

Session 1 – Landscape

1 Let’s review the medium of pastel. How does this medium work?
2 What makes a landscape painting succeed? What do we need to know about landscapes and seascapes to be able to paint them with authority?
3 When working from photographs – the requirements for the source materials for the best pictures. The format of the painting, size, colors, composition and cropping, tonal values, ........ and a few more things
4 You will find out how to approach the initial drawing and lay in for your first pastel painting in this session. Then, how to choose the colors and apply them. How to correct mistakes is also an important skill to learn.
5 The under painting in tonal values is a very important step in painting any subject
Session 2 – Seascape

1. What makes a seascape interesting to you?
2. How can you compose a painting of the ocean, rocks and land?
3. What are the important things to know about painting water, waves, rocks and land?
4. Which colors will work best for this subject?

Session 3 – Still life with Flowers

1. Drawing from life is always the best way to learn and paint. Today you will be painting a still life set up from life. You will learn how to set up a still life and light it for painting.
2. Learning how to draw the subject will be the first consideration today. Then, choosing the colors, shadow colors, light and dark colors for rounded objects and flowers will be demonstrated and discussed.
3. You will learn how to simplify the flowers and other objects and also what it takes to keep the painting looking fresh and not overworked.

Session 4 – Simple Street Scene

1. You will see how to draw the street parts with simple perspective in the first part of this session.
2. You will also find out how to paint the surface textures needed for your particular building subjects – e.g., wood, grass, stone, brick, tile, glass, paving, etc.
3. You will be thinking about how much detail to include in a painting like this and learning how, why and where to be selective in your choices.

NOTES

A few suggestions……..

1. As we work through this painting process together in class you can start one or two more paintings at home each week on your own and bring them to class for help.
2. Try making small studies on pastel paper of areas in your painting that are giving you problems, for example, shadow colors, buildings, trees, foregrounds, textures etc.