

Diane Grguras: Pure Color

A workshop on pastel

Diane is a pastel painter who works both outdoors and in the studio. In this workshop the unique beauty of pastel and its unmatched intensity of color will be explored. All levels are welcome for a relaxed and encouraging day of painting.

What to expect:

In the morning Diane will demonstrate how she chooses her subject and will begin a painting. Participants will start their own painting from a photograph of their choice, with individual help throughout the morning. In the afternoon Diane will continue developing her demonstration painting, give more individualized help with student's work, with a final re-gathering for critique.

What to bring:

This is what I bring to paint in the field; except for the hat, the list is the same for indoor studio painting.

Pastels...I bring my box of assorted pastels & leave pastel pencils at home lest I be tempted to get too detailed. I started with Rembrandts & have added many other brands over the years.

Sanded pastel paper (usually Uart or Pastelmat)9x12 or 11x14 are the sizes I commonly use; sometimes I use 6x8. I sometimes make the paper a little bigger than those standard sizes to allow room to clip or tape it to the board

A backing board...I use an old piece of foam core big enough to fit the paper & a little extra swatch on which I test colors

Binder clips (or tape) to secure paper to board

2 bottles of water, a little water bowl, & an old watercolor brush...this is to work the initial dark pattern into the paper in order to preserve the tooth (and to drink)

Kleenex or paper towels...to blot the brush, and to wipe off each pastel before I use it

I carry a kneaded eraser & some old acrylic brushes in my box for (gasp) mistakes

I also bring a hat, surgical gloves, wet wipes, and a view finder for helping compose the painting

My set up includes a tripod that fits onto the bottom of the pastel box & a mast for the painting, but when I first went out I just brought a rollup chair & an old TV tray to hold pastels. I held the painting in my lap on an old towel which doubled as a place to keep the pastels I was using.

A tabletop easel