



Dundas Valley School of Art

Instructor: Holly Sneath

Class: Pastels for Beginners

Materials:

1. Pastels - either a simple set or a handpicked selection of soft chalk pastels - there are a number of brands and a range of prices... Rembrandt and NuPastel offer good quality sets. If purchasing separately, select a palette to include a couple each of red, blue, yellow, green. Include an orange and a purple or two. Pastels also come in varying degrees of softness. Try to include a few very soft ones in your collection.
2. Papers - pastels can be applied to many different surfaces. Choose papers with some tooth or texture, and in colours that appeal to you. Canson offers a number of different colours as well as a good surface. Sanded papers are expensive, but offer an excellent pastel experience.
3. Newsprint – for 'life drawing in soft pastels', we frequently begin with a series of quick gesture drawings for which a pad of newsprint or Manila paper are excellent.
4. Large clips to secure your paper.
5. Drawing Board – there are some old boards at DVSA, however you may wish to bring your own piece of foam core or a commercial drawing board.
6. Soft cloth or paper towels are great for smudging, as are the paper stumps for pushing colour around. Soft watercolour brushes can be used for blending..... Stiffer brushes for removing excess pastel dust.
7. Sketch book - you should get in the habit of carrying a sketch book for working out your compositions, and also for jotting down ideas and insights you have along the way.
8. Portfolio - those with protective sleeves are great for transporting delicate pastel drawings, but any sturdy case will work fine. A large pad of newsprint with two or three large clips is economical and works well both as a smooth surface to work over, and as a means of transporting your drawings (between the pages).
9. Gloves - Some people find soft pastels irritating to the hands after prolonged exposure. You may wish to use close fitting latex gloves or a barrier cream if you find this a problem.