

Paint with Pastels

Anna L Waddell

The medium of pastel has a wide variety of uses. Once used by masters as a way to make preliminary sketches for paintings, it grew into its own genre. It is a medium of light and color and lends itself to making simple objects sing. This is a class designed for those who would like to investigate the possibilities of pastel using soft or firm pastels with still life set-ups. A still life set-up is an age-old tool for learning to see and translate what is being seen. Along with tips on composition, we will take a natural approach to seeing and responding to the subject matter, light and color through a series of exercises and build upon what is learned to create drawings that sing. A participant should be able to take away a method of practice and a few drawings that show progress. The techniques used in this class should be valuable and transferable to drawing just about anything, and the participants will have a solid point of departure for drawing in pastel.

Week One:

Materials discussion, choosing/ arranging subject matter, seeing/ drawing

Drawing I: Contour

Week Two:

Sketching for the pastel drawing. Object shape analysis.

Drawing II: Basic shape still life: lay it in light.

Week Three:

Laying in the values. Light and shadow.

Drawing III: Still Life with values. Monochromatic.

Week Four:

Color layering, explorations.

Drawing IV: Experimental approaches, abstractions.

Week Five:

Texture:

Drawing V: Textural still life

Details and Decoration: Essential in measure.

Final critique, sharing.

Materials: Bring to First Class. We will discuss other materials.

Box of Pastels. Firm is best, but soft is less expensive, tablet of newsprint for first class.

About Anna L Waddell

Anna L Waddell is a life- long artist who grew up and studied in Northern Arizona, during a time of rising popularity of Southwestern Painting. The light and essence of this influence her work, along with a love of the conceptual, feeling that paintings speak visually and it is a language we can learn. She explores media for its own special essence, and loves the hands-on, techno-free experience for its ability to bring one back to one's heart, mind and hands. Her paintings reflect a response to media, environment and concept, with a respect for the gifts they bring her.

Anna has a BFA from Northern Arizona University. She has a good understanding of the craft of teaching, as well and is a certified teacher. She has taught Art to all ages of students from the youngest to the oldest, and enjoys them all.