

Painting with PanPastel™

Grades 8-12
Lesson Plan by Joe Culotta,
Sax Art Consultant, South Texas

Description:

Traditional pastel sticks are made from pure powdered pigment and a binder. Usually, pastels are applied to the paper and often blended with a finger, tortillon, stump or chamois skin. The process can be a bit dusty and messy. PanPastels are a fabulous new form of pastel in a form that is similar to a cosmetic powder. They come in interlocking jars that stay neat and organized. They are LOADED with pigment with very little binder, making them more intense and increasing the amount of coverage beyond that of any pastel stick. Each pan covers 35% more area than the average pastel stick. Small tools called Sofft Tools, extremely durable sponge-like applicators, are used to apply the color to the paper. The process is considerably less messy than drawing with stick pastel, with much less dust. The Sofft Knives and Sponge Bars are based on brush shapes – round, flat, oval (filbert) and pointed. Because of the pan form of the pastels and the shapes of the tools, drawing with the PanPastels is similar to painting. Applying, layering, blending and lifting color are easily achieved as in watercolor painting. The results can be stunning.

Objectives:

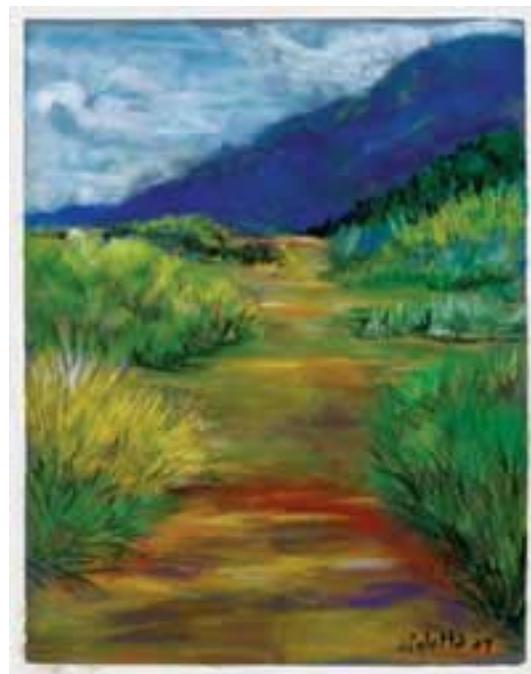
- Students will examine the work of traditional pastel painters, such as Edgar Degas, and analyze and assess their techniques.
- Students will become familiar with a new media, combining drawing and painting techniques, while developing new ones.
- Students may choose to combine PanPastels with other media, such as watercolor, acrylics, pastel sticks, pastel pencils, charcoal, or colored pencils to create a finished piece.

Materials:

PanPastel, Painting Set of 20 Colors (1274219-705)
Sofft Tool Set, 4 Knives and 4 Covers (1274033-705)
Sofft Covers, 10 each of 4 Shapes (1274034-705)
Sofft Art Sponges, Bar Assortment, Pkg. of 4 (1274035-705)
Sofft Art Sponges, Angle Slice, Pkg. of 2 (1274036-705)
Sofft Art Sponges, Big Oval (1274037-705)
Sofft Art Sponges, Angle Slice, Round, Pkg. of 2 (1274038-705)
Derwent Pastel Pencils, 36-Color Set (407199-705)
Sax True Flow Workable Fixative, 11 Oz. (466337-705)
Colorfix Pastel Paper, 20" x 28", 140-Lb. (247690-705)
Strathmore 400 Series Artist Quality Pastel Pad, 18" x 24", 24 sheets (234432-705)
Magic Rub Vinyl Eraser, Box of 12 (077362-705)

You may wish to use:

Watercolor Paints
Acrylic Paints
Pastel Sticks
Charcoal
Drawing Pencils
Colored Pencils
Various Erasers
Workable Fixative



Directions:

1. Experiment with the PanPastels and the Sofft Tools. Load color onto a tool by very gently wiping over the surface of a color pan with a circular motion. Apply the color to various papers using a variety of pressures. Try using various types of erasers to lift color off for highlights. More intense colors can be achieved as desired by layering. Do not overload the Sofft tools with the PanPastels as this will only create waste and dust. Load your tools gently as stated above and apply more layers until the desired build-up of color is achieved. You can lightly spray with fixative in between layers if many are needed.
2. You may switch from color to color by simply wiping the tool sideways on a dry paper towel to clean it. (If the tools get really dirty, they can be washed in mild soap and water, but must be completely dried before touched to a pan again.)
3. Choose a paper that will support the techniques you wish to try. Colored pastel or charcoal papers can produce beautiful results. If you want to do an underpainting, watercolor paper may be best.
4. Begin your work with a light outline in graphite or pastel pencil, if desired.

5. Many pastel painters begin with an underpainting in watercolor or acrylic paint. You may wish to try this technique.
6. While working with the PanPastels, use soft brush techniques. Block in large areas of color for backgrounds and tinting paper using the Sofft Sponges. Leave some areas of very thin applications and lift out some areas for highlights. You may create soft reflections and thin veils of color as in watercolor painting. Be careful not to layer so much that the colors become muddy. Spray areas that you will work on top of with spray fixative.
7. After the main areas of color are blocked in, use the PanPastels to create highlights. Work with the smaller tools to create texture and detail where desired.
8. You may apply more detail with pastel sticks or pencils, drawing pencils, charcoal or colored pencils.
9. After completion, use fixative to protect the work.

National Standards:

Content Standard #1: Understanding and applying media, techniques and processes.