

# Materials List

Instructor: Debra Van Leen

Day/Time: Wednesday's, 10:00 am - 3:00 PM

April 10-24

Class/Workshop: Painting Animals in Soft Pastel



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**Material List for Painting Animals in Pastel Classes** *Pastels* If you already have an assortment of pastels by all means bring as many as you wish to carry to class. If you are just beginning, I'd recommend a few basic supplies before taking the plunge headfirst. There are many different manufacturers of pastels, each with slightly different color palettes and with different hardness/softness scales of the pastel sticks themselves, which will give different effects with each stroke. Most pastel makers have created "starter sets" and half sized pastel sets that will do quite nicely for a beginner. Buy the best you can afford, try not to cheat yourself with inexpensive materials you will notice a difference and appreciate working with quality products. Your efforts are worth it. Many brands offer a set specifically for painting animals. These are basic for color selection but helpful. Since animals try to "blend into" their environment a basic landscape set can also be useful.

I do not recommend sets such as Alpha, Loew Cornell, etc. I believe these will be in the \$15-\$20 range or less. These sets are lacking in the deep colors, quality pigments, and consistency you will find in better pastels. Nu- Pastel is a semi-hard pastel, the newer formulation is lightfast and these produce very little dust. You can augment this set with some softer ones. Rembrandt makes a good starter set and Mungyo (round and handmade) is a reasonable brand, also sold as Gallery. I have purchased several of their pastels and was pleased with the value. Great American, Sennelier, and Unison are also good choices, there are so many brands to choose from online research is encouraged. Some offer half stick sets with as many as 120 pastels, this would be a good choice if you do not know if you'd like to commit to more. Jerry's Artarama also sells a Soho Artist half stick set for around \$60.00 which is good, I've use these for overseas travel.

**Paper** A rough or "toothy" drawing paper is necessary to hold the pastel pigment, there are several on the market such as Uart which comes in various grits (500 grade is great for starters) it comes in a buff tone or near black. Pastel Premier is also available in various grits and colors. The lower the number for the grit the rougher the surface will be. Very coarse paper gives an interesting effect but eats up your pastels. Art Spectrum, Clair Fontaine Pastel Mat (one of my favorites for animals) and Canson Touch are also good choices. These papers come in various tints and colors. I'd recommend a neutral tone to start. They also offer precut sizes, very small to very large. I'd say for starters 9" x 12" is a minimum size but going a bit larger will help you with detail. A sketch book, tracing paper and glassine to protect your work is also helpful.

Please be prepared to get a bit dirty. Pastels and their dust can be an annoyance to some. If you are bothered by dust please bring a mask to wear. Rubber gloves or finger cots are also good. I have also used a barrier hand cream with some success.

**Please, no Oil Pastels.**

**Bring your own reference photos!**

**Animals simply refuse to sit for their paintings. Please bring several photos of good quality of the animals you wish to paint. *I firmly discourage using photos from published resources due to copyright limitations.***

Other equipment that may come in handy

◆ A drawing support, a board or panel to hold your paper, it is recommended to pad this with felt or sheets of paper. ◆ Drawing supplies ◆ An easel. ◆ A smock or old shirt to keep yourself clean ◆ A towel or paper towels to clean the pastel stick from other pigments it's come in contact with ◆ A tray or box to hold the selection of pastels you are currently working with ◆ Wet wipes for quick clean-ups ◆ Kneaded and other erasers ◆ Pastel Pencils (these are not the same as colored pencils which contain wax). ◆ Pencil sharpener and a sand paper block for Pastel pencils ◆ Assortment of vine charcoal, charcoal pencils or blocks

I paint on an easel which allows the dust to fall down off of the surface of my work, if you have your own easel, and it's easily transported you can bring this to class. CTAC has standing easels that are available for use. A table easel can also work. While using my easel I have an old beach towel I put on the floor beneath. This collects much of the dust that falls and cushions the floor if you drop a pastel. I've saved many sticks from shattering doing this.

**Resources** Pastels, Pastel Supplies, Papers and Surfaces ◆ Dakota Art Pastels, [www.dakotapastels.com](http://www.dakotapastels.com), 1-888-345-0067 ◆ Jerry's Artarama, [www.jerrysartarama.com](http://www.jerrysartarama.com), 1-800-827-8478 ◆ Art Supply Warehouse, [www.aswexpress.com](http://www.aswexpress.com), 1-800-995-6778 ◆ Dick Blick Art Materials [www.dickblick.com](http://www.dickblick.com) 1-800-828-4548 ◆ Rochester Art Supply, [www.fineartstore.com](http://www.fineartstore.com), 1-800-836-8940 ◆ You may also be able to find soft pastels and paper on EBay and Amazon

Although I do not use much fixative it can come in handy, Krylon Gallery Series Fine Art Fixative has the least change in color, Blair makes a low odor fix that's also good.

We will discuss supplies, safety, handling, framing and transporting and, many more things in class, but you can contact me at [davanleen@gmail.com](mailto:davanleen@gmail.com) if you have specific questions. Please be sure to put Crooked Tree class in the subject line so I won't delete your message.

I look forward to helping you discover the beauty and versatility of this medium.