

Fall 2020 Pastel Painting Instructed by Renee Leopardi

Class Syllabus

I am excited to present the Fall 2020 Pastel Painting 6-week session! These classes will include not only pastel painting techniques but information that can be applied to all mediums. As I demonstrate each week, I will discuss my thought process and techniques. Students are encouraged to ask questions while I work. And while I urge students to work from their own photographs, I will always have extra references for students who are more comfortable painting along with me.

Week 1

Introductions and Supply list review and recommendations. First lesson will have a focus on Composition with some brief exercises. I will demo what I consider to be a “Dry underpainting” and how I use layers to create depth. This first session will be more of a step by step demonstration leaving time for students to work between each layer.

Week 2

Monotone underpainting / drawing

Applying the same composition and value exercises from the week before, we will use a single hard pastel to create our underpainting along with rubbing alcohol to set. We will be painting a night scene for this exercise.

Week 3

Complimentary vs local color underpainting

Winter landscape with snow

Snow is always a fun challenge! We'll do 2 smaller pieces (same reference photo) with 2 different underpaintings to see how our colors react.

Week 4

Exercises in color

This is an exercise in color theory. If you have a color wheel, bring it for this class. Using a reference of your choice (I will be using a sand dune / beach reference), we will do 4-6 different color combinations to create different visual effects. Keep it simple!

Week 5

Pick your favorite color combo from week 4

Using the lesson from Week 4, students will work from the same reference from Week 4 or choose a new one. Pick the color combination you liked best. The week between the lessons will give you time to really look at your exercises to see what speaks to you. Then you can choose which type of underpainting you would like and create a full size / rendered piece.

Week 6

Bring them all

Whatever pieces need to be finished or you would like extra help with will be the focus of the beginning of this session. The last hour will be a group discussion about our work. Students will be asked to discuss their 2 best pieces from the course (finished or not). I will give an informal critique (no pressure, just learning 😊). Each student will discuss their thoughts on the pieces. What did you like and learn? What were your challenges?