

Dry Pastel Techniques



Resources: *The Pastel Book* by Bill Creevy, *Soft Pastel* by Walter Foster, About.com Website - http://painting.about.com/od/pastelpainting/ss/pastels_techs.htm,

IO: Students will learn and demonstrate understanding of dry pastel techniques: blending colors, making tints and shades, creating value scales (2 methods), feathering, dusting, & scumbling.

Preparation:

Copy Dry Pastel Techniques Worksheet on Cardstock (Optional-lightly spray with hairspray)

Delivery/Activity: (40 minutes) Most of this lesson is from About.com

Delivery will be intermixed with activity.

Pastel Techniques- Teacher Guided Demo

1. **Holding the Pastel:**

- i. **Tip:** The simplest way to use a pastel is to draw with the end, holding it as you would a pencil or pen. The resultant line has great expression, conveying a sense of the gesture you made. Alter the thickness of the line by varying the pressure you're applying to the pastel. The harder you press, the more pastel you'll be putting down on the sheet. For thinner lines, press more gently or use the edge.
- ii. **Side:** If you want to work quickly, creating large blocks of color, use the side of a pastel stick. Altering the pressure will create different degrees of texture on the pastel paper. When the side of the pastel has worn down, giving two sharp edges, it can also be used to create fine lines.

2. **Blending Pastels** –Unlike other mediums, pastels are not mixed before putting them on the paper. There are two ways to create color and tonal variations -- optical blending, which is achieved by having colors in close proximity (see [hatching](#)), and blending, where the pastel is mixed on the paper.

- a. You have a wide choice of tools to use for blending, although the traditional one is the finger. Also available are: the side of the hand - useful for large areas of blending, but not good for precise results; paper tools such as the tortillon, torchon, and paper stump; putty (or kneaded) rubbers, cloths, and cotton wool (balls or buds).
 - i. **If using your finger** (or hand) remember to clean it regularly to avoid contamination of the painting with colors previously blended. Keep a box of wet-wipes or damp paper towels handy at all times.
 - ii. **Paper stumps and tortillons** can be cleaned up for further use by unwinding a layer at the end or by removing the end surface with a pencil sharpener.

3. **Scumbling** -- after a layer of pastel has been applied, and fixed, lightly drag a soft pastel on its side across the top. This creates a broken covering of the new color over the top. The result is visually stimulating and very textural, and careful choice of colors will produce amazing results.
4. **Feathering** is a fine-tuned form of [hatching](#) using short strokes. The result is rather like scumbling -- it can give a vibrancy to a painting. Feathering will also work for optical mixing of color (like with pointillist paintings) where the eye mixes the colors together rather than blending them on the paper. *Tip:* This method is especially good for giving the appearance of iridescence of fabric, feathers, and scales, or for creating atmospheric effects with light.
5. **Dusting.** Hold a pastel over the block of color (it is easier if this has been fixed, but not essential) and scrape the stick's surface to create dust. Once you are happy with the arrangement of dust on the paper, use a flat palette knife to press the dust into the surface.
 - a. *Tip 1:* It is much easier to do this with the painting held horizontally - the pastel dust will fall exactly where you want it to, and not contaminate the rest of the picture.
 - b. *Tip 2:* Make sure the palette knife is really clean before trying this, and then even if you move the knife around a little bit it won't blend the colors together.

Evaluation: Visual & Quiz Grade

Materials Needed: Pastel Techniques Worksheet, pastels, blending sticks & other blending supplies, paper towels, scratch paper, newsprint for tables

Pastel Techniques

Name _____ Date _____

Types of Strokes



Tip



Side

Mixing 2 colors



Primary

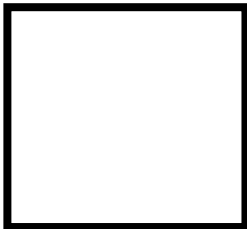
Secondary

Primary

Value Scale by using only a paper towel or your finger to blend out the value.



Make a **Tint**.



Make a **Shade**.



Value Scale adding black & white to a color & blending so it has a smooth transition of values.



Blending 2 Colors



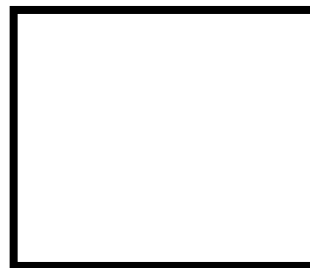
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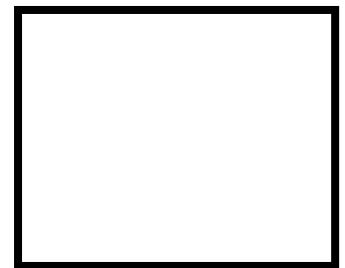
Scumbling



Feathering



Dusting



Intensity



Red

Green



Yellow

Purple



Blue

Orange

Practice Shading Forms

