

WEEK 1

UNDERPAINTING AND VALUE

THE UNDERPAINTING PROCESS: BUILDING THE ROADMAP

UNDERPAINTING

is the roadmap.

It establishes composition, value, light, and form—creating a strong foundation so you can focus on color, expression, and technique with confidence.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand value structure and its role in form
- Establish composition & light
- Build form and volume
- Create unity and atmosphere

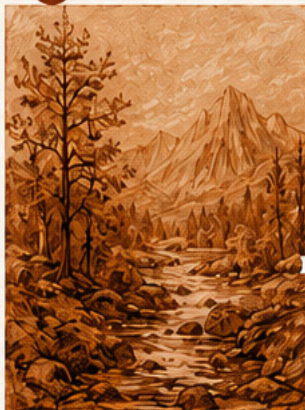


KEY IDEA

Solve the big questions early—composition, value, and light. Then paint becomes freedom, not confusion.

1

IMPRIMATURA



Thin wash of Burnt Sienna/Umbre to tone the surface and unify.

2

VALUE BLOCKING



Establish lights, mid-tones and darks. Define form with strong value contrast.

3

REFINED UNDERPAINTING



Introduce preliminary colors. Blend/soften. Set a rich, colorful base.

4

COLOR APPLICATION



Apply pastel in layers. Build color, texture, and edge variety.

5

FINISHED PASTEL



Refine details, add accents, and bring unity, depth, and luminosity to life.

STRUCTURE (VALUE)

COLOR & EXPRESSION

UNDERPAINTING PRINCIPLES



COMPOSITION

Design with large shapes. Establish focal points.



VALUE

Separate lights from darks. Control contrast.



HARMONY

Create unity through a cohesive tonal range.



VOLUME

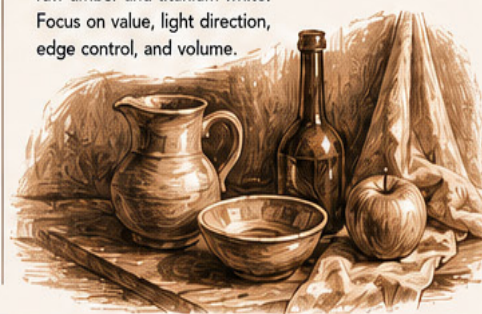
Model forms with gradual value transitions.

MATERIALS

- Soft Pastels
- Toned Paper (Mi-Teintes)
- Blending Stumps, Tortillons
- Kneaded Eraser
- Fixative (for studio work)

STUDIO EXERCISE

Create a monochromatic still life using raw umber and titanium white. Focus on value, light direction, edge control, and volume.



SETUP GUIDE



1 strong light source from one side



Arrange objects at different heights and shapes



Keep composition simple and balanced

ART HISTORY INSIGHT: UNDERPAINTINGS THROUGH TIME



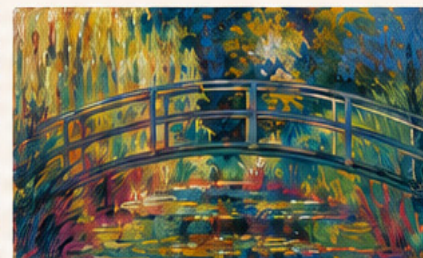
Edgar Degas
Dancers in Yellow



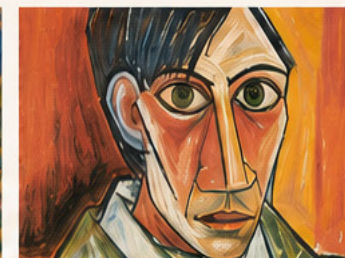
Mary Cassatt
Mother and Child



John Singer Sargent
Study of a Figure Outdoors



Claude Monet
The Japanese Bridge



Pablo Picasso
Self-Portrait

WEEK 2

TEXTURE & BROKEN COLOR

TEXTURE & BROKEN COLOR



Art History Focus: Impressionist light and atmosphere by Claude Monet and Camille Pissarro.

Core Technique: Scumbling, feathering, and layering side-by-side strokes without blending.



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand how broken color creates light and atmosphere
- Use texture to suggest air and movement
- Layer side-by-side strokes without blending
- Control color temperature in changing light



KEY IDEA

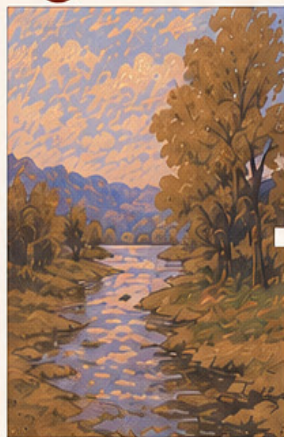
Small, visible strokes of pure color capture the vibration of light and air. Let the viewer's eye mix—not your hand.

TEXTURE & BROKEN COLOR

THE UNDERPAINTING PROCESS: BUILDING THE ROADMAP

1

LOCAL TONE



Block in sky and land with loose mid-tone side-strokes. Establish value relationships.

2

SCUMBLING



Drag a soft pastel lightly over the textured paper. Let the strokes skip and catch ridges.

3

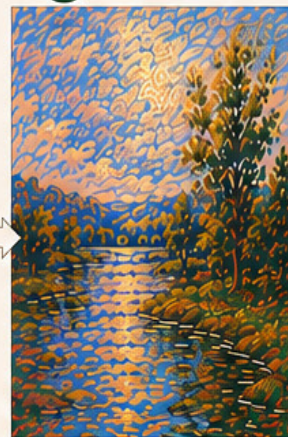
FEATHERING



Apply parallel linear strokes of different colors to build air, distance, and shifting light.

4

PURE ACCENTS



Punch clean, vibrant highlights onto focal areas with heavy pressure. Accents bring life.

5

FINISHED PASTEL



A finished pastel with texture, broken color, and atmosphere. Light is suggested, not blended.

STRUCTURE (VALUE)

COLOR & EXPRESSION

UNDERPAINTING / TEXTURE PRINCIPLES



STRUCTURE FIRST

Establish the composition and values before focusing on color.



TEXTURE CREATES LIGHT

Use the tooth of the paper to break color and catch light.



BROKEN COLOR

Place small strokes of different hues side-by-side. Let the eye mix the color.



ATMOSPHERE THROUGH LAYERS

Build layers of color and value

MATERIALS

- Terry Ludwig or Unison soft pastels

Claude Monet

Sunset on the Seine at Lavacourt, 1880



STUDIO EXERCISE

Paint a landscape focusing on how shifting cloud light changes the color *temperature of water.

- Observe how warm and cool colors appear as light shifts.
- Use side-by-side strokes to capture reflections.
- Keep your strokes visible and your colors clean.



SETUP GUIDE



1 strong light source from one side

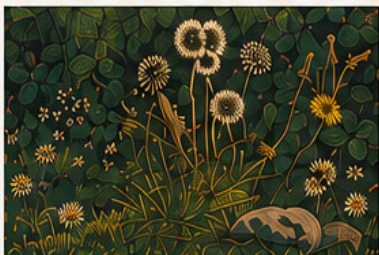


Arrange objects at different heights and distances

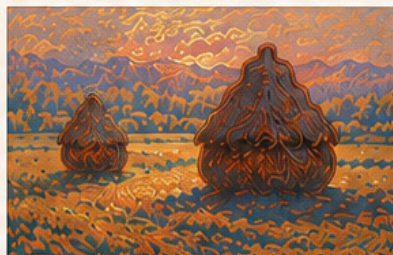


Keep composition simple and balanced

ART HISTORY INSIGHT: IMPRESSIONIST LIGHT & ATMOSPHERE



Jean-François Millet
Dandelions, ca. 1868



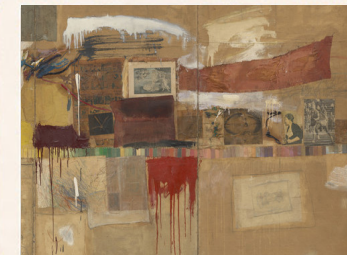
Claude Monet
Haystacks, Evening, 1891



Camille Pissarro
Morning, Sunlight, Eragny, 1897



Eugène Delacroix
"Sketch for The Death of Sardanapalus," (ca. 1827)



Pablo Picasso
Self-portrait, 1948

WEEK 3

MOVEMENT & LINE WORK

MOVEMENT & LINE WORK



Art History Focus: Capturing energy and expression through dynamic line work by Degas, Sargent, Van Gogh and Redon.

Core Technique: Gesture drawing, directional lines, cross-hatching, and expressive color application.



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand how line creates movement and emotion
- Use directional lines to establish rhythm and flow
- Build form and depth with cross-hatching
- Apply expressive color to enhance energy and mood
- Combine line and color for a finished pastel study



KEY IDEA

Dynamic lines bring your subject to life. Let your strokes capture movement and feeling.

MOVEMENT & LINE WORK

1 GESTURE



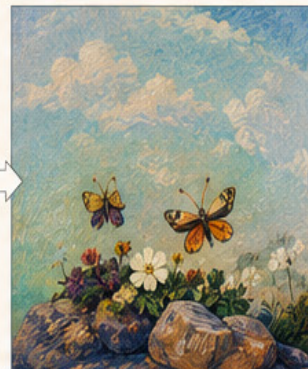
Use quick, loose gestures to capture the main action and energy of the subject.

2 DIRECTIONAL LINE



Establish movement and rhythm with directional lines that follow the flow and form.

3 CROSS-HATCHING



Build depth and structure using cross-hatching and layered strokes.

4 EXPRESSIVE COLOR



Add expressive color to enhance mood and emotional impact.

5 FINISHED STUDY



Refine details and balance line, texture, and color for a cohesive pastel study.

STRUCTURE (VALUE)

UNDERPAINTING / TEXTURE PRINCIPLES



STRUCTURE FIRST
Establish the composition and values before focusing on color.



TEXTURE CREATES DEPTH
Use varied line work to build surface texture and depth.



BROKEN COLOR
Layer small strokes of different colors side-by-side. Let the eye mix the colors.



ATMOSPHERE THROUGH LAYERS
Build layers of color and value to create depth and air.

MATERIALS

- Terry Ludwig or Unison soft pastels
- UArt 400-grit sanded paper
- Stiff bristle clean-up brush



STUDIO EXERCISE

- Create a small landscape or figure study using dynamic line work.
- Observe how line direction influences movement and mood.
- Use cross-hatching to build value and form.
- Apply expressive color to unify your composition.
- Step back often to check balance and energy.



SETUP GUIDE



1 strong light source from one side



Arrange objects at different heights and distances



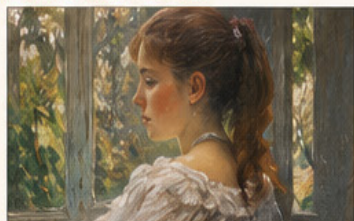
Keep composition simple and balanced

ART HISTORY INSIGHT: MOVEMENT AND LINE WORK



Edgar Degas
The Dance Class, 1871

Captures movement with quick, economical lines.



Edgar Degas
Young Girl at a Window, 1871

Uses subtle line direction to create quiet mood and form.



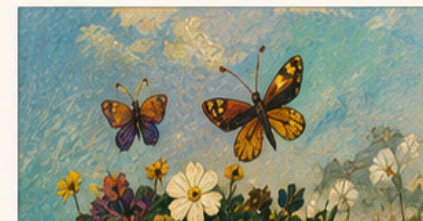
John Singer Sargent
Group with Parasols, 1874

Combines flowing line work and vibrant color for atmosphere.



Vincent van Gogh
The Starry Night, 1889

Expressive, rhythmic strokes convey intense emotion.



Edilone Redon
Butterflies, 1910

Delicate lines and soft color create dreamlike movement.

WEEK 4

ATMOSPHERE, LIGHT, DEPTH

Art History Focus: atmospheric light, distance, soft edges, and depth.

Core Technique: edge control, blending, color temperature, and value transitions.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Create depth through softened edges
- Use atmospheric perspective
- Control transitions between
- Build mood through subtle color value shifts



KEY IDEA

SOFT EDGES CREATE SPACE, AIR, AND DISTANCE.

ATMOSPHERE, LIGHT & DEPTH

PASTEL PROCESS:
EDGES, AIR AND DISTANCE

1 INITIAL BLOCK-IN



Block in the largest light and dark shapes first.

2 BROAD BLENDING



Soften broad passages without overworking the surface.

3 ARIEL PERSPECTIVE



Use cooler, lighter colors to push space backward.

4 HARD & SOFT EDGES



Loose and fine edges to guide attention and mood.

5 FINISHED LANDSCAPE



A finished landscape has air, depth, and quiet transitions.

STRUCTURE (VALUE)

COLOR & EXPRESSION

ATMOSPHERE / DEPTH PRINCIPLES

- ☐ **LARGE MASSES**
Start with broad value shapes.
- ☐ **SOFT EDGES**
Blend transitions to create air.
- ☐ **COLOR TEMPERATURE**
Cooler and lighter colors recede.
- ☐ **LOST & FOUND**
Sharp edges should lead the eye.

MATERIALS

- Terry Ludwig or
- Unison soft pastels
- UArt 400-grit sanded paper
- Hard pastel basic set
- Kneaded eraser
- Stiff bristle clean-up brush



STUDIO EXERCISE

Create a foggy landscape or shoreline scene emphasizing depth through value, color temperature, and edge control.

- Use a limited color palette
- Soften background forms
- Keep the focal area clear
- Let some edges disappear



SETUP GUIDE

- ☐ 1 strong light source from one side
- ☐ Arrange subject with clear focal areas
- ☐ Keep composition simple and balanced

ART HISTORY INSIGHT: ATMOSPHERE, LIGHT & DEPTH



James McNeill Whistler
Nocturne in Blue and Gold
Uses soft darkness and limited color to make mood and mystery.



Jean-Baptiste-Camille Corot
Ville-d'Avray, 1865
Soft edges and quiet values create distance and air.



Claude Monet
Waterloo Bridge, Fog Effect, 1901
Atmosphere dissolves form into light, color, and fog.



J.M.W. Turner
Rain, Steam, and Speed, 1844
Movement, weather, and light blur the structure of the scene.



John Singer Sargent
Simplon Pass, 1911
Bold shapes and broken strokes keep the landscape alive.

WEEK 5

SOFT BLENDING & ATMOSPHERE

Pastel artists create atmosphere by blending colors and values into soft transitions. As values become closely related, forms connect and the composition feels unified. In the final Lost & Found stage, only a few edges are sharpened while others remain soft, guiding the viewer's eye and creating depth.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Create atmospheric effects through blending. Use related values to unify a composition. Understand the concept of lost and found edges. Control visual focus through selective detail. Develop depth and mood using soft pastel techniques.

KEY IDEA



Not everything in a painting should be equally sharp. Soft edges create space, air, and distance.

SOFT BLENDING & AERIAL PERSPECTIVE

PASTEL PROCESS: EDGES, AIR AND DISTANCE

● BLOCK IN COLOR



SOFT BLOCK-IN: RUBBING LIGHT APPLICATIONS OF SOFT PASTEL ACROSS THE PAGE WITH BROAD SIDE-STROKES.

● BROAD BLENDING



BLENDING: USING PIPE INSULATION OR A SOFT CLOTH TO SMEAR OUT ANY HARD LINES COMPLETELY.

● ATMOSPHERE



VALUE CLOSE-OUT: MERGING FOREGROUND AND BACKGROUND ELEMENTS USING CLOSELY RELATED MID-TONE VALUES.

● LOST EDGES



LOST & FOUND: RE-ESTABLISHING ONLY A SELECT FEW CRISP DETAILS IN THE IMMEDIATE FOREGROUND.

● FINISHED DEPTH



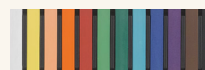
A FINISHED LANDSCAPE HAS AIR, DEPTH, AND QUIET TRANSITIONS.

ATMOSPHERE / DEPTH PRINCIPLES

- **LARGE MASSES**: Start with broad value shapes.
- **SOFT EDGES**: Blend transitions to create air.
- **COLOR TEMPERATURE**: Cooler and lighter colors recede.
- **LOST & FOUND**: Sharp edges should lead the eye.

MATERIALS

- Terry Ludwig or Unison soft pastels
- UArt 400-grit sanded paper
- Hard pastel basic set
- Kneaded eraser
- Stiff bristle clean-up brush



STUDIO EXERCISE

Create a foggy landscape or shoreline scene emphasizing depth through value, color temperature, and edge control.

- Use a limited color palette
- Soften background forms
- Keep the focal area clear

SETUP: One light source from the side



COLOR & EXPRESSION

- Color Has Mood – Colors can communicate feelings and emotions.
- Warm vs. Cool – Warm colors advance; cool colors recede.
- Contrast attracts attention and creates emphasis.

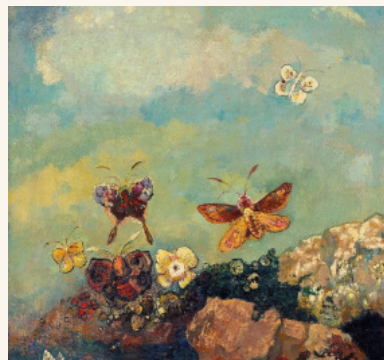
ART HISTORY INSIGHT: ATMOSPHERE, LIGHT & DEPTH



Edgar Degas — Jockeys Before the Race
Ville d'Avray, 1882



Edgar Degas — The Dance Class
Ville d'Avray, 1874



Odilon Redon
Butterflies, 1910



John Singer Sargent
Simplon Pass, 1911



Mary Cassatt
Mother & Child, 1878

WEEK 6

FINAL PASTEL & PORTFOLIO

Art Focus: contemporary pastel work and portfolio-quality Core Technique: planning, refinement, critique, and finished presentation.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Complete a finished pastel painting
- Apply techniques from previous lessons
- Learn presentation and portfolio preparation
- Participate in critique and discussion



KEY IDEA

A finished work combines drawing, value, color, texture, atmosphere, and personal expression.

FINAL PASTEL THE PASTEL PROCESS - BRINING IT ALL TOGETHER

TONAL THUMBNAIL



PLAN THE COMPOSITION WITH QUICK THUMBNAIL SKETCHES.

UNDERPAINTING



ESTABLISH STRUCTURE, VALUE, AND MAJOR COLOR DIRECTION.

COLOR BUILD



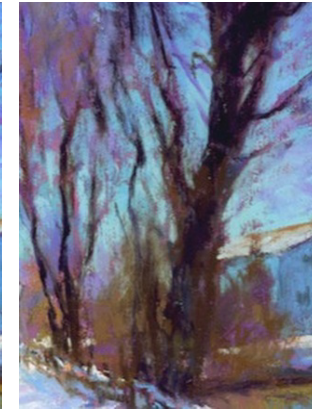
DEVELOP LAYERS OF COLOR, TEXTURE, AND ATMOSPHERE.

REFINEMENT



ADJUST EDGES, FOCAL POINTS, AND FINAL ACCENTS.

FINISHED DEPTH



PREPARE THE WORK FOR CRITIQUE, DISPLAY, OR PORTFOLIO USE.

STRUCTURE (VALUE)

PORTFOLIO / FINAL PRINCIPLES



PLAN FIRST

Strong work begins with clear design.

USE YOUR TOOLS

Combine value, color, texture, and edges.

REFINE FOCUS

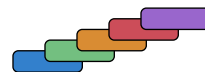
Every adjustment should support the main idea.

PRESENT CLEANLY

Protect the surface and prepare for review.

MATERIALS

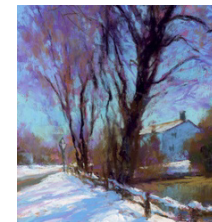
- Terry Ludwig or Unison soft pastels
- UArt 400-grit sanded paper
- Hard pastel basic set
- Kneaded eraser
- Stiff bristle clean-up brush



STUDIO EXERCISE

Create a finished pastel painting incorporating underpainting, broken color, movement, atmosphere, and strong design principles.

- Choose your strongest subject
- Use techniques from all weeks
- Prepare for class critique



COLOR & EXPRESSION

GUIDE 1 strong light source from one side



- Arrange subject with clear focal areas



- Keep composition simple and

CONTEMPORARY PASTEL MASTERS



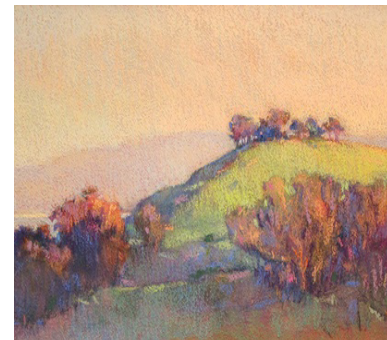
Jen Evenhus
Path on the Bay, 2018



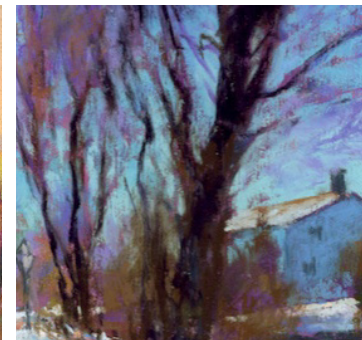
A.J. Wainright
Night Lights, 2018



Daggi Wallace
Resist, 2024



Duane Wakeham
To The Bay Beyond, 2015



Lana Ballot
Snow on Main Street, 2018