

**Erika Perloff**

**Workshop Materials List: Santa Cruz Art League  
2220**

Dear Students,

I am excited that you will be joining me for my pastel workshop .

**Please read all the information here before you venture out to purchase supplies!**

**Class set up:**

***Note: We will meet at the Art League's classroom at the Tannery Art Center, not at the Art League. See directions below***

We will begin the two-day workshop at the Tannery and go over some techniques for outdoor work. If weather permits, we will then carpool to a nearby natural area. The area will depend on conditions that day. There may be a parking fee if we go to a state park or arboretum. If the weather is inclement, we will stay and work at the Tannery. Please bring your own reference photos, sketches, or paintings you've done of the landscape to work from. The second day, if the weather permits we will meet at a to-be-determined outdoor area.

Please organize your materials so that they are easily portable and can be carried a short distance from your car, either in a rolling tote or light pack. Bathrooms will be available close to where we work outdoors.

You can purchase pastels and paper online at Dakota Art Supply, <http://www.dakotapastels.com>, Dick Blick, <http://www.Dickblick.com> or your favorite art supplier. Many smaller art stores do not carry a wide variety of pastels so don't wait until the last minute to make your purchases. Lenz Arts in Santa Cruz has a good selection of pastels and paper.

**Pastels:**

If you already have a set of soft pastels, with a variety of dark, medium and light colors, bring them. **(Please do not bring oil pastels as the techniques I will be teaching do not apply to them.)** It is not necessary to have a huge variety, but a set of 30 colors or more is nice to have. If you aren't ready to invest in more pastels, I have some loaner sets you can use for a \$5 fee.

There are many different brands of soft pastels and many levels of quality. You will be much happier with your results if you use good quality brands.

*Here are some brands to choose from:*

Unison

Daler-Rowney

Diane Townsend Soft

Girault

Great American

Mount Vision

Richeson

Sennelier

Terry Ludwig

I personally use a mixture of these as well as some harder Rembrandt and Nupastels. Make sure you have some very dark darks other than black (I like to have several harder darks made by Nupastel, which I use for underpainting. I especially like the **bottle green, spruce and dark violet**. These are usually available individually at Lenz, or online through Dakota.

Again, If you don't want to invest in a lot of pastels right now, relax. Working with a limited palette is a great challenge and will make you stronger!

**Here are a few good sets I recommend at various price points:**

Sennelier, Landscape set of 30 half sticks , or set of 40 assorted half sticks, or Paris Collection half sticks.

Unison Half-stick set of 30

Girault Richard McKinley 50 neutrals and friends

Richeson Half stick set of 48

**Paper:**

For this workshop, we will be doing under-painting and you will need a sanded or toothy paper that can stand up to alcohol washes. I recommend UArt 320 or 400 grit. The 9 x 12 pad is perfect. You can also buy larger sheets and tear them down to size, or buy the sheets pre-mounted to a stiff backing. If you have a different sanded or textured paper you like that can take a liquid wash, feel free to bring it. If you aren't sure, ask. It's fine to share a 9 x 12 pad with a friend. You will need roughly 4 9 x 12 sheets.

**Backing Board:**

You will need a lightweight board to attach your work to. You can use gator board, plywood, masonite or even very sturdy cardboard or foam core. The board should be large enough to accommodate a 9 x 12 painting, or larger if you wish.

**Easel:**

A lightweight portable easel or tripod/box system is strongly recommended for allowing you to step back from your work and keep your pastels clean. Yes, it is possible to work without one but definitely more cumbersome. Be sure you have a way to hold your pastel box on to your easel, especially if it is windy. (A bungee cord works).

You can attach your pastel box to a French easel, or, as I do, use a box that attaches to a tripod with a quick release. I use the Heilman Pastel Box which is especially good for working en plein air and is available at <http://www.heilmandesigns.com/>. Make sure you know how you will carry your system, along with your other supplies. I use a large backpack and all my materials fit inside. I

If you are not bringing an easel you will need to bring a chair to work from. It helps if

you have your pastels as close as possible, so if your chair is high, bring a small lightweight table to put them on, or bring a low chair so you can keep them on the ground.

**Other Required materials:**

- 1 roll of masking tape
- Paper towels
- 4 large binder clips
- Small sketchbook
- Pen or pencil for taking notes
- Sheets of glassine paper to protect your artwork, or you can use pages from a magazine.
- 1 old bristle paint brush for underpainting, preferably flat, size 10-12
- small container to hold alcohol
- small can of denatured alcohol (preferred-available at hardware stores) or plastic bottle of isopropyl alcohol for use in underpainting. (can be shared if you are coming with a friend)
- A soft pencil, for doing value studies.
- Smock, apron or clothes that can get dirty
- Layered clothes for temperature shifts (if it rains we will go indoors)
- Small container such as an old muffin tin or pie tin to hold pastels that you are actively using. (Garage sales!)
- Lunch/snack/water<sup>[SEP]</sup>
- Sun hat/sunscreen
- Baby wipes to clean hands
- Several of your own inspiring photos to work from in case of inclement weather: landscapes, skies, seascapes etc.
- MOST IMPORTANT: A spirit of experimentation and a sense of humor!

**Optional:**

- Disposable gloves
- Lightweight Chair or stool for sitting during outdoor demos or if you plan to sit to paint
- Camera
- Artist Umbrella. (Recommended) I use the "Best Brella." Painting in the shade makes a huge difference for both your comfort and the look of your plein air paintings. If you bring an umbrella, make sure you know how to set it up before you come. If it is windy, an umbrella is not advisable.

**Please email me if you have questions about anything on the list. I am happy to talk to you about supplies or any special needs you have. ☺ [erika@erikaperloff.com](mailto:erika@erikaperloff.com)**