

Art Education
Resources
that **Engage,**
Inform &
Inspire

ROYAL TALENS

Soft Pastel Painting Techniques

Subject(s): Visual Art & Social Studies
Medium(s): Soft Pastels
Brand(s): Talens Art Creation



Talens Art Creation soft pastels are a soft dry pastel with which you can draw in a picturesque manner. Soft pastels are made with high quality pigments offering vivid and intense colors, which are easy to apply and blend.

The medium appeared in the 16th Century during the Renaissance in Northern Italy, It was a preferred drawing material for the masters Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo.

Other well-known artists who used Soft Pastels include Pablo Picasso, Pierre Auguste Renoir, Edgar Dega, Mary Cassatt, Henri De Toulouse-Lautrec, and Jean-Francois Millet.

Project Outline

An introduction to working with soft pastels using Talens Art Creations Soft Pastels and Pastel Paper. The aim is to explore several traditional techniques as well as some more experimental applications. Thus, enabling the student to have a broader understanding of the medium.

Traditional soft pastels are an extrusion of pigment mixed into a binder that is generally clay based. The extrusion is then baked to dry and harden it. Pastels are matte in appearance and perform similarly to chalk when used. Typically, they are applied to paper, more recently artists have been using textured grounds or surfaces to work on as well.



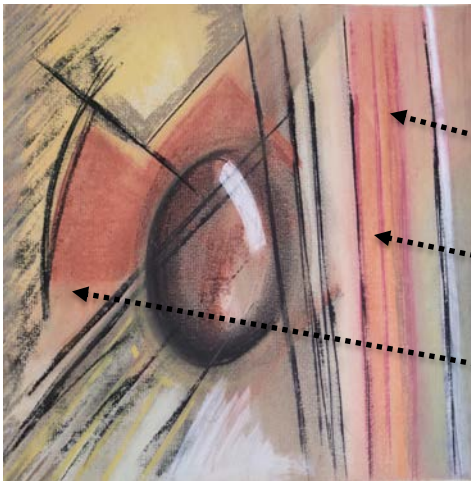


Materials

- Talens Art Creations (TAC) Soft Pastels
- Talens Art Creations (TAC) Pastel Paper
- Tape
- Pallett or mixing dish
- Synthetic Watercolor Brushes
- Paper Towels
- Blending tool (optional)
- Kneadable eraser
- Isopropyl Alcohol 91%

Set Up

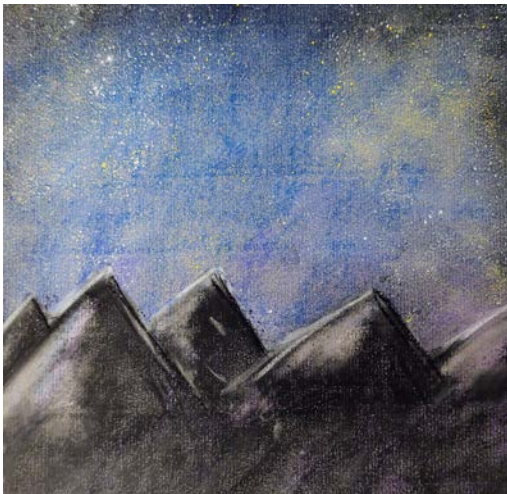
- Tables should be flat or supply a drawing board. Cover if needed with newsprint paper.
- Lay out paint, brushes, palette or mixing dish, pastel paper.
- Have paper towels for cleanup.
- Make enough room for individuals to work side by side, sitting or standing.
- Tape the Talens Art Creation Pastel Paper down onto a flat surface. This will hold the paper steady while you work and will create a boarder that is useful for framing



- Using the broad side, permits large areas of color to be laid down for backgrounds etc.
- Turning the pastel on its corner enables lines and sharp strokes.
- Using the narrow end of the block gives ample color laydown with more control for confined areas.
- Drawing with the point of the pastel facilitates detailed lines and shapes

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- Shave the pastel using a sharp craft knife onto the paper and then applying pressure using a sheet of parchment or glassine paper. This adheres the fragments of pastel onto the surface and is perfect for skies and texture etc.
- To create a liquid paint shave some of the pastel using a sharp craft knife into a shallow pallet then add isopropyl alcohol 91% to the powder.
- The Alcohol turns the pastel into a liquid paint. Alcohol can also be applied directly over the dry pastel when it's on the paper. This is great for creating a wash effect.



Tips

- Use a piece of paper towel to rest your hand on to prevent smudging while working.
- You can blend the colors using a finger, soft cloth, blending tool or brush.
- Using a kneadable eraser color can be removed for subtractive techniques.
- Its advisable to store pastel paintings between sheets of glassine paper prior to framing to prevent smudging. A fixative can also be applied to the finished piece. Note some fixatives are reworkable and others can darken certain colors. Pastel paintings should ideally be framed behind glass.

National Standards for Art Education

Anchor Standard #2. Refine and complete artistic work.

Grade 3 VA:Cr1.13 Elaborate on an imaginative idea.

Grade 7 VA:Cr1.1.7 Apply methods to overcome creative blocks.

Grade 5 VA:Cr2.1.5a Experiment and develop skills in multiple art-making techniques and approaches through practice.



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