

PASTEL LANDSCAPES

The Materials of Art - Pastels

Soft pastels consist of a pigmented powder held together by a binder. Pastels typically are produced in stick form.



Soft Pastels

Hard pastels are similar to soft pastels, but feature a higher binder to pigment ratio making them harder and less powdery.



NuPastels

Pastel drawings are often referred to as “paintings” because colors can be mixed and layered in a similar manner to a painting.



Pastels can be applied to a surface using a variety of different methods. Three popular techniques include *blending*, *scumbling*, and *feathering*.

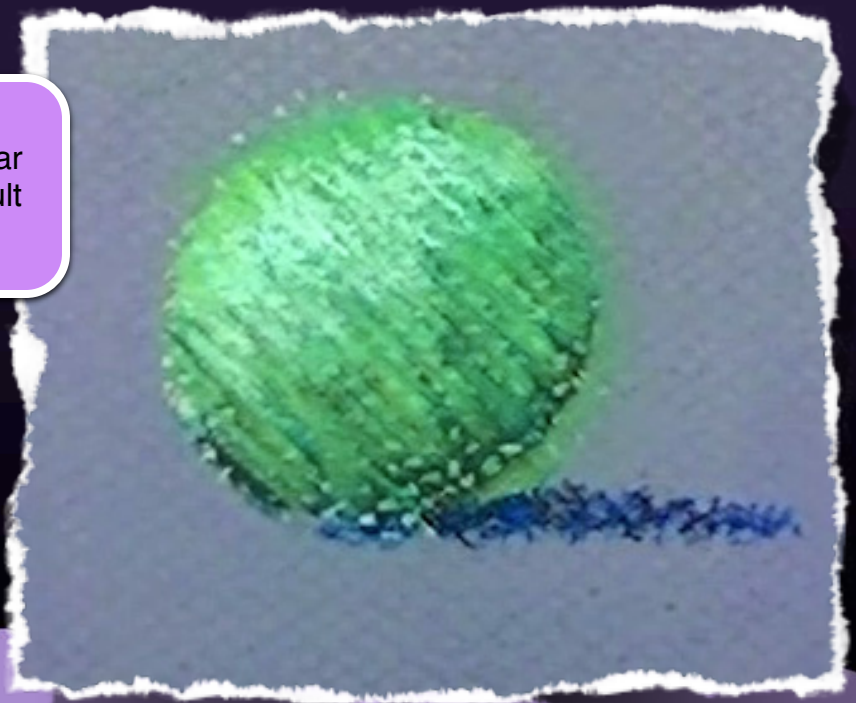
Blending is used to smooth transitions between colors and values. A finger, blending stumps, or cotton swabs can be used for blending.

ART MEDIA



Scumbling is the process of applying light, but opaque layers of pastel on the surface. Underlying colors of surface texture will show through creating optical color mixing effects.

Feathering is a process of adding pastel to a surface with opaque linear marks. This technique will also result in optical color mixing.



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Atmospheric perspective refers to the illusion space that is created in an image that results from the use of lighter and cooler colors in areas that are further from the viewer.

When landscapes are approached with pastels, it is advisable to complete the drawing in a specific order.

Since pastels can be layered, the artist may choose to start with the *background*, completing this area first.



BACKGROUND



MIDDLE GROUND

With background complete, the *middle ground* can be addressed.

Lastly, the *foreground* can be added. Each area in the landscape overlaps the previous one.



FOREGROUND

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