

September 15, 2001 Issue

A Passion For Pastels



Where did the Summer go? The days are still warm and dreamy, but nights are getting chillier. The sun doesn't want to get up as early these days, and it is in a big hurry to go to bed at night. (a lot like me, I must admit.) The trees are beginning to show their fall colors. Down the street a maple turned bright red, seemingly overnight.

This is a good opportunity for us to reflect on things accomplished and things yet undone. The gardens are putting out glorious color with no extra encouragement from me. So, when I take a break and stroll amongst the blooms, I remember the care and feeding and watering that produced this lovely bounty. The fall clean-up will not happen for a few more weeks. In the meantime, I look forward to autumn, pondering the long lovely summer that is quietly leaving by the side door.

Next issue: Galleries and shows

You CAN teach an old dog new tricks.

At age 55 plus, I learned how to operate a computer. (I am getting pretty good at that now.) Two years ago I learned about pastel painting. I have always loved to draw. Pencils, crayons, chalk and charcoal became instruments of creativity in my hand. But pastel, soft pastel, was like putting the end of a rainbow at my fingertips. Pastel painting is a natural for someone who loves to draw. The result is immediate! Today's soft pastels come in all the basic shades of colors, and we now have the choice of "hot" colors; pink, orange, lime green, bright blue and so on.

“And, OH!, the joy when I pick up a soft pastel stick and sweep it across the paper!”

The manufacturers put together collections for landscapes, or portraits, or dark colors, or general colors. Pastels can be purchased in these sets, or one stick at a time. And, OH!, the joy when I pick up a soft pastel stick and sweep it across the paper! I can go wild with color. There is a brilliance like no other medium.

Pastels can be blended to be very smooth looking, but most of the fun of the medium is to leave the strokes untouched and not "fixed" with a spray fixative.

“The completion of a painting leaves me excited to start another.”

Pastel painting gives me fast results. A 12" X 16" piece can be completed in a few hours, scanned, color corrected, and on the internet by the end of the day.

Pastel painting is fun! I love to see those vivid colors explode in front of my eyes. The completion of a painting leaves me excited to start another.

I'll always be a traditional seascape artist, but working with pastels is like having your cake and eating it too!

Featured Artwork

Fort Bragg Harbor (pastel)



"The vivid colors and sharp angles convey the excitement of this busy harbor. As the day lengthens and more working boats weave out of the bay, Fort Bragg harbor on the northern California coast will settle down to a quiet rest."

A Pair O' Piglets (pastel)



"As the warm summer sun pokes through the barn doors, 'a pair o' piglets' prepares to settle down for an afternoon nap. One more twist of the tail and its siesta!"

Storm Clouds (pastel)



"A brilliant shaft of sun glow spotlights the buildings and trees of a small farm. Sparkling colors and dark wet soil tell of 'storm clouds' passing."