

The following 31 artists, who are members of the Appalachian Pastel Society, participated in this virtual group activity while “Sheltering-in-Place” at their homes. The artwork they created is shared here. Hugs and best wishes to all until we can meet together safely.

APS Adventures in Pastel

Adventure Four: “Color to the 4th Power”

Welcome! Our fourth APS Pastel Adventure is “Color to the 4th Power” which will allow us to explore the language of color. Color has been called an emotional language that simply cannot be put into words, instead, it must be experienced. In this adventure, we will let the colors flow and explore just how loudly color can speak to us and to our viewers.

HERE’S THE CHALLENGE:

Step 1: Select an object, a scene or a still life that you want to paint four times. This could be a donut, a shoe, an ice cream cone, a landscape, a portrait of your pet, etc. The options are limitless, but pick something that holds your interest.

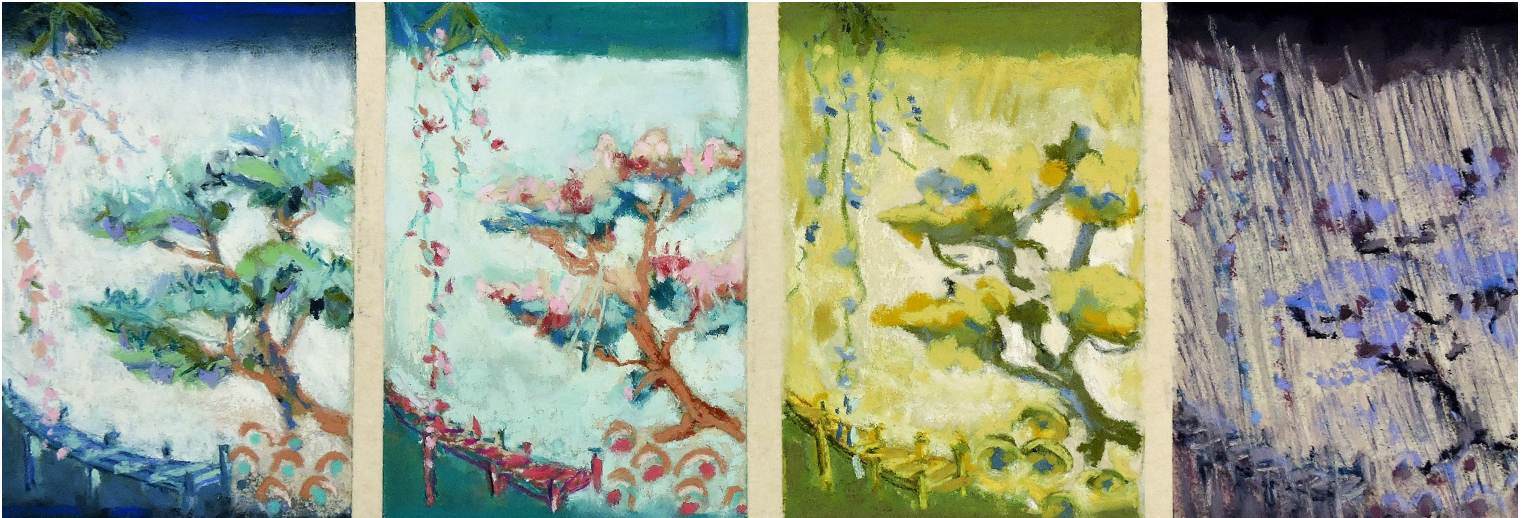
Step 2: Divide your painting surface into four equal squares. These squares can be of any size you like as long as they are all equal.

Step 3: Each square will have the same object, but you will paint each square with different hues. The color choices are up to you. Think Andy Warhol and the “Campbell Soup Cans”. Same object but each in different hues. *See the illustration attached as an example using a cupcake as the object.*

Step 4: As you paint, consider how the hues you employ change the emotional impact of the object. Please feel free to share your observations when you send in your photo. And yes, black, white and grays are all considered colors and definitely convey an emotional impact all their own.

Step 5: : Take a photo of your painting with the four squares and send it to Kay Gordon (jkaygordon364@gmail.com) by Sunday, August 23 at 6pm. **Be sure to include the size and your title.** Remember this deadline is firm and nothing received after this time can be posted. Let the colors speak! On your mark; get set; PAINT!

Anne Allen, Hendersonville



My Floating World: Four Variations on UKIYO-E each is 4 x 3

The life and landscape of Japan and its diverse people is preserved for centuries in the traditional UKIYO-E woodblock print. Inspired by master artist, Utagawa Hiroshige (1797-1858), I decided to paint my own landscape UKIYO-E variations in pastel. Each miniature landscape, measuring 4 x 3 inches, illustrates the Japanese black pine, falling wisteria, walking bridge and water feature representative of the peaceful Edo period in Japan.

Kathy Amspacher, Hendersonville



These trees got simpler as I went from first to last. The mountains and foreground did not!

This is a huge Oak on the Carl Sandburg property as seen from Little River Road in Flat Rock. The beauty of this tree never gets old. It paints itself!

Seasons of Flat Rock Oak 13 1/2 x 17

Catharin Banta, Hendersonville



Tanzanian Bird 12 x 12
on Uart pastel paper



The object I chose for this adventure was a small bird made from a seed pod from Tanzania.. I thought the whimsical nature, and fond memories would hold my attention. I started by using analogous Colors/ Hues on the color wheel, blue purple, orange red etc. except for the fourth bird that I did not plan and he wound up being more of a complementary bird! I enjoyed experimenting with the colors and realized if you pick a simple, childlike ,subject your piece might not be as satisfying, but simple as well!

Jane Best, Morganton

McRae Meadows Tree

10.5 x 14.5 Painting surface—matboard coated with gesso

Based on a photo I took near Grandfather Mountain recently. I've tried to paint this tree several times both in oil and pastel but have been bogged down with the abundance of greens in the actual scene and with details so have tried to stay simple and have avoided using Any greens in these little paintings. An interesting challenge. Hopefully this exercise will help me the next time I attempt to paint the tree!

I had planned to do an underpainting with alcohol wash but ended up just blending the dry pastels with my finger. Also, I only used Nupastels



Michelle Breen, Asheville

Ideas are like Rabbits

14 x 11

Fun to play with color.

I was thinking about Rothko and his color field paintings as I made my color choices.

Also going mad with all the rabbits in my garden this year, hence the subject.



Deborah Chase, Hendersonville



This was a very interesting adventure. Since the emphasis was on color I didn't give much thought to the image.

Once I transferred them the questions started. Do I want to work on all images at once or one at a time? Do I want to play with values and colors? What about trying various underpaintings?

I could have easily done four more different ones. This was a lot of fun. Thanks!

Please Bloom Orchid

18 x 18

Nancy Clausen, Swannanoa

Variety is the Spice of Life

20 x 16



Here is my image. I call the painting Variety is the spice of life.

It's on LuxArchival paper.

I used Rembrandt pastels for the underpaintings and then a variety of others. They were Sennelier, Great American and Blue Earth. It was a fun exercise.

I used some colors I don't ordinarily use.

Ruth Crowe, Matthews, NC

A Quad of Pears 9 x 9

I have attached 2 pictures-one showing what it looked like before I put in the background and the finished 9x9. I left a small black border between because the backgrounds were different.



Hope to be able to attend a meeting soon. I am so ready-like every one else-for this time to be over.

Marcia Donley, Zionville

Many Moons
each is 5 x 7ish



Terrilynn Dubreuil, Asheville



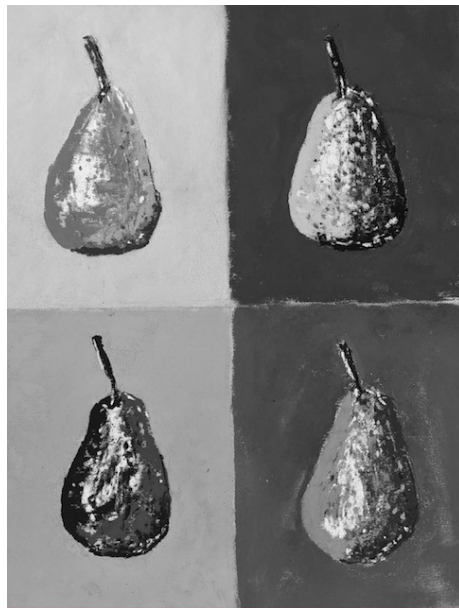
Apples of My Eye
12 x 12

Will Evans, Fairview

2 Pair of Pears

11 x 8 1/2

I didn't do an underpainting, just sketched and painted. When it was done I turned it into a grey scale to study the values.



The challenge was selecting the pear colors that were appropriate to the background colors. The surprise was how the dark blue and red were so similar in value. A fun assignment.

J Kay Gordon, Weaverville



I used this month's challenge to explore the colors of the ocean at different times of the day...just before sunup...at noon...just after sunset...and at night under moonlight. One of my favorite places to camp, paint and photograph is Edisto Beach State Park, SC. We camp just across the dunes, and it is a short walk from our trailer to the beach at any time of the day or night. I am fascinated by the colors of the sky and water that I've witnessed over the years. The color choices in these four paintings (as well as the reference for the drawing) were inspired by my memories and photos. The knowledge I gained from this challenge will help me make better color choices for future seascapes.

A Day (and night) at the Beach

each section is 6 x 6

on elephant gray Art Spectrum

MaryAnn Grib, Gray, TN



Lantern

12 x 12

Attached is my submission. It's 12x12 on canson mi-teintes paper and I'm calling it "Lantern".

I enjoyed keeping it simple and coming up with the different color combinations. It definitely made me approach the subject in a more creative way.

Sami Griffis, Flat Rock

The Apples are Coming! The Apples are Coming!

14 x 17

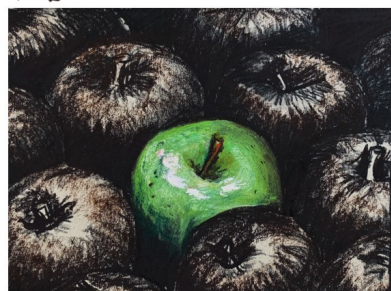
Apples are my all-time favorite fruit and the time for having loads of local apples is almost here. I drive by several apple orchards on my way home from work, and always thought I would like to paint the apples on a branch. But after seeing how many there are on each branch, well, the profusion is just too much. I decided to present my apples with a single colorful fruit highlighted. All the varieties shown are really delicious, with the Granny Smith being the most versatile.



Fire Ladies



Golden



Grannies



Galas

Griffis

I think it's time for an apple pie!

Alec Hall, Hendersonville



Reference painting by John Nieto

Aurora Bear-ealis 4.5 x 6

Each block is 4.5" x 6" on sanded pastel paper. There are several wildlife artists who I think of as "colorists" and two of those are Bob Kuhn and John Nieto. I started with my pastel interpretation of one of Kuhn's acrylic pieces called "Seal Hunter" (it is in the upper left panel); then I did two other color variations of it. Lastly, I used this basic image and translated it into how I thought that John Nieto might approach it (bottom right panel). For those of my APS colleagues who might not be familiar with John Nieto, I have attached one of his paintings for reference.

John Nieto (1936-2018) has Native American ancestry (Apache) and did paintings of indigenous peoples and wildlife in oil. I found this exercise enjoyable and interesting, but I doubt that I will ever become a colorist.

Kathy Hawk, Kingsport, TN

Technicolor Landscapes

each is 6 3/4 x 10

Thank you for doing all
the work involved in this
project!



Gail Helton, Knoxville, TN

Pathways

11 x 4

homemade surface



Ginny Hotze, Asheville



I really wanted orange to be my favorite but loved yellow and enjoyed the black one.

Rita Kirkman, New Braunfels, TX

Power Chick, variations 2—5

4 x 4 squares

I decided to use different papers to help with the color variances. I hope that's ok. (I probably won't win the pastels anyway since I missed the last two challenges. But I just loved this month's challenge!) I did dark, light, cool and warm for my variations. The dark is on the MingART pastel paper medium gray. The light is on the old Wallis (or maybe UART). The cool is on Pastelmat. The warm is on the old Sennelier LaCarte.



[SPECIAL TREAT: CLICK HERE FOR SPEED VIDEO OF RITA'S PROCESS](#)

Karen Knaub, Lake Lure



Snowgarita

7 x 5 1/4

This was another fun adventure. What I learned was It is difficult for me keep an object symmetrical.

I tend to prefer bright colors. They seem happier to me.

And yes of course the mood of a painting changes with color choices.

Thank you again for another adventure.

Cindy Lidd,



Colorful Barn

9x12

I tried one that is local color, then tried one using complimentary colors, and the last two done using colors very close to each other on the color wheel. Interesting adventure! Thanks..

Chris McGraw, Asheville

Untitled 12 x 9

I decided to stay within the spirit, rather than the letter, of the challenge in order to entertain my current exploration of papers and pastels.

The top left and bottom left are on Pastelmat, which is now officially my favorite paper (thanks for the recommendation, Kay Gordon!). The top right is on Luxe Archival and the bottom right is on Artspectrum Colourfix.

Fun, fun challenge!



Linda Medders-Jackson, Cross, SC

\$19.95
8.5 x 9.5

Sweet lil bunny in the antique store.



Joy Rademacher, Southport



Hey, Dune

11 x 15

Here is my group called Hey, Dune. 11x15 on Uart 400.

I chose four trays of colors before I started. Top left I used my usual colors for this subject for sunny day. Top right I chose all intense senneliers. Bottom left I stuck with neutrals—not my thing. Bottom right I tried warm shadows and cool lights.

I enjoyed my usual colors the most, but I think the intense color option was fun and something I might explore now. Great challenge!

Tracey Risteen, Waynesville

Around the Bend 11 x 16

5x8 rectangles

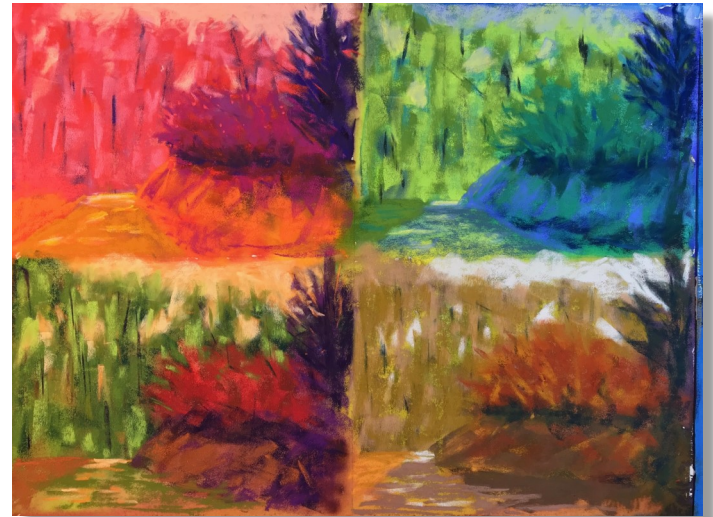
Did someone say color experiment with color?

White Pastelmat with watercolor underpainting.



Fun experiment!

Thanks for collecting these and creating a web show.



Two of the paintings use colors mostly within the same color temperature.

One uses a complementary scheme and one I tried to use muted colors.

Chris Robinson, Leicester

Homage to Wolf Kahn

11.5 x 17



This adventure came just at the right time. I had I received a set of Diane Townsend Terrages in the Wolf Kahn colors. I wanted to try being adventurous with color, much like Wolf was. Color is still something I struggle with, so this adventure pushed me to just experiment and play. I LOVED it! Doing these paintings was so much fun and so liberating.

Gary Rupp, Black Mountain



Fall Icon 22 x 22

In this series of pumpkins, I wanted to explore warm and cool colors with one of my favorite fall symbols. Although I had a good time diverging from the local color, I don't think I could ever enjoy a blue pumpkin pie!

Zoe Schumaker, Hiawasse, GA

King of the Range
16 x 20 (four 8 x 10's)

I often paint the same thing multiple times while varying one or more elements to produce different effects.

I use a similar exercise when teaching my class at the John C Campbell Folk School (also named "Adventures in Pastel"). I call it "4 takes".

My intention with this exercise was to paint the first three "takes" using different complementary color schemes: Yellow-Violet, Blue-Orange, and Red-Green, and then do the 4th in "expressive color". However, by the time I got to the 4th quadrant, I felt like doing something quieter so I painted my final take using a monochromatic (blue only) palette. I like the 4th version; it's less realistic and more evocative -- it feels like a "nocturne".

I worked on a 16x20 sheet, so that I could fit in 4 8x10s, which gave me enough room to work in some details, but not too many. I chose the bison, because it is both a simple shape and an iconic subject. Once I had my palettes picked, I could work fast. I found this exercise a lot of fun, and am considering doing more -- maybe even taking the time to plan a finished piece comprising 4 takes on a single subject.



Ron Shepard, Gastonia

Four Amigos, 12 x 9

Fabriano Ingres Pastel paper 160 gsm.
Eberhard Faber Nupastels (vintage set orig cost \$1.00 24 set) ...
Plus Design Nupastel.

Paper required blending.

Sent with and without background. Preferred no background color better.

Good challenge.



Jane Voyles, Asheville

I transferred this with charcoal from an

assignment I completed for an Experimental Drawing class I took a few years ago. As usual I discovered I had chosen a class that was too advanced for me and for the assignment to draw something "hanging" I knew that I would struggle with a piece of cloth, piece of rope, etc. So, I hung up a mini manikin in the light of a lamp, and was pleased that it turned out to be fun. For Adventure Four I didn't want to get stalled on the drawing part



Wooden Flight 9 x 12

(and four times), but instead hoped to concentrate on color and simply how to try to use the pastels in a basic way . . . so, I reused the manikin.

The Four Pinkys 12 x 12



Attached is my Adventure 4 painting. It is called The Four Pinkys. It is 12x12. Pinky is one of my female betta fish who lives in our 50 gallon tank.

Much appreciation to all who participated and shared their paintings and their comments!