

The following 27 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 Five: “The Bee’s Knees”

Our fifth APS pastel adventure is “The Bee’s Knees” In this adventure we will explore the abstract nature of a close-up view. Here’s how it will work:

Step 1: Take a photo of something. It can be an object (such as a flower), or a landscape...or anything you like.

Step 2: Use your computer or smart phone to zoom so deeply into that object that you find an abstract design to use for your painting.

Step 3: The challenge is to find abstract qualities with a zoom that you can use to create exciting artwork. Your painting should be based on that design, but doesn’t need to exactly re-create it. Feel the freedom of experimentation.

Step 4: When you finish, take a photo of your painting and share both your original photo and the abstract you have created. Remember, however, your painting does not need to be in its finished form. The adventure is so we can be painting together. This means exploring and experimenting with new ideas and techniques using pastels.

Step 5: Send your **original photo and the photo of your artwork, along with the title and size** of your painting to Kay Gordon (jkaygordon364@gmail.com) by Sunday, September 20 at 6 PM. Feel free to include a brief commentary about your process.

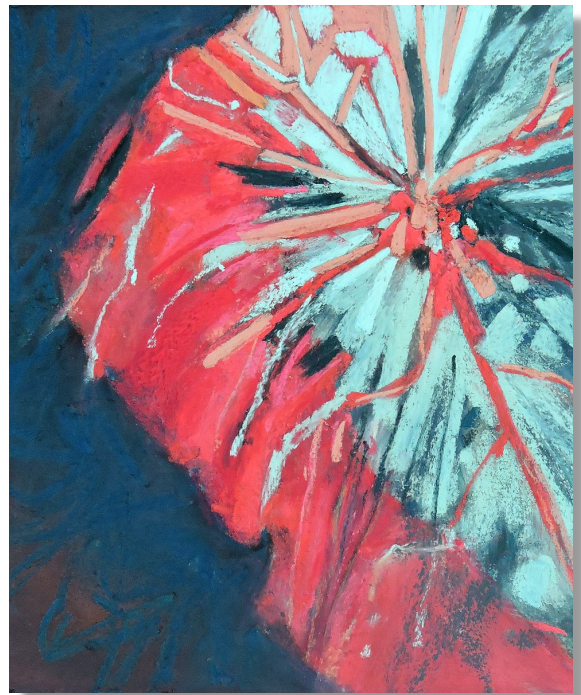
Step 6: Remember this deadline is firm and nothing can be posted that is received after 6 PM on Sunday, September 20, 2020. On your mark; get set; PAINT!

[Many of Georgia O’ Keefe’s paintings explore the extreme up-close details of objects...often of flowers. You might refer to her paintings to see how the intimate details can provide wonderful paintings.]

Anne Allen, Hendersonville



A Wing of Caladium 7 x 6



I am a gardener and painter. My sunny studio in western North Carolina overlooks a rock garden of begonias, azaleas and caladium plants. I waited patiently for the morning sun to break through the pine trees to take my photographs. I was inspired to look beyond the plant's local color and arrange a palette of blue teal, turquoise and rose. *A Wing of Caladium*, painted on UArt sanded paper over an alcohol wash, was more challenging than I imagined. It was truly *an adventure*.

Kathy Amspacher, Hendersonville



Painted on 280 grit sandpaper mounted to gatorboard.

Underpainted with regular oil paints thinned well with Odorless Mineral Spirits.

Dries fast and makes interesting drips!

I planted sunflower seeds in March. Many of the young succulent leaves were eaten by my squirrels before they had a chance to grow!

I took several survivors inside and nurtured them. Just 2 weeks ago they finally budded out! The buds were my inspiration for this "abstract." Thank you so much, this was fun!!

P.S. learned of oil underpainting from Karen Marguilis.

Sunflower Bud 9 x 8



Dolores Andrus, Hendersonville



Blue and Gold 5 x 7

This Adventure was a wake up!! I felt a temptation to drift over to work on the original image. Found many possibilities for painting abstracts -an exercise in observing. Thanks. It was fun.

Jane Best, Morganton



Happy Hour 12 x 9



Pastel on black Uart paper. Assorted pastels. I opened several cabinet doors and snapped photos of different objects, then studied and zoomed in on the different photos to try to find a workable design. Almost chose a spice rack photo but decided to try this one instead. Was fun to see so many possibilities within an ordinary photo.

Michelle Breen, Asheville



Photo

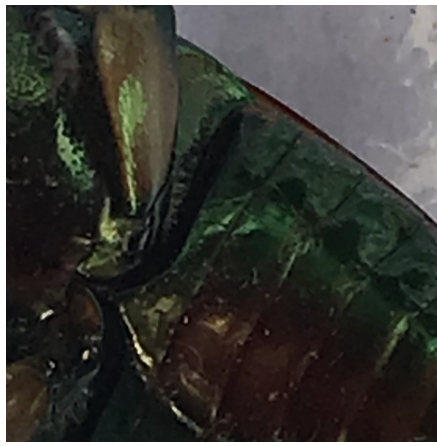
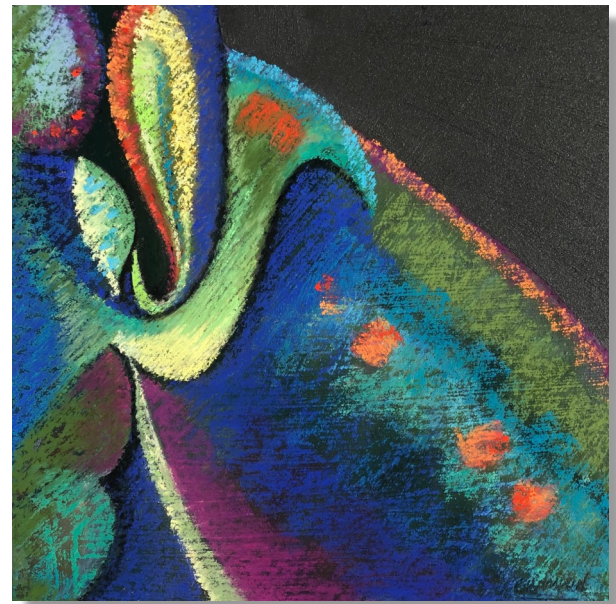


Photo zoom

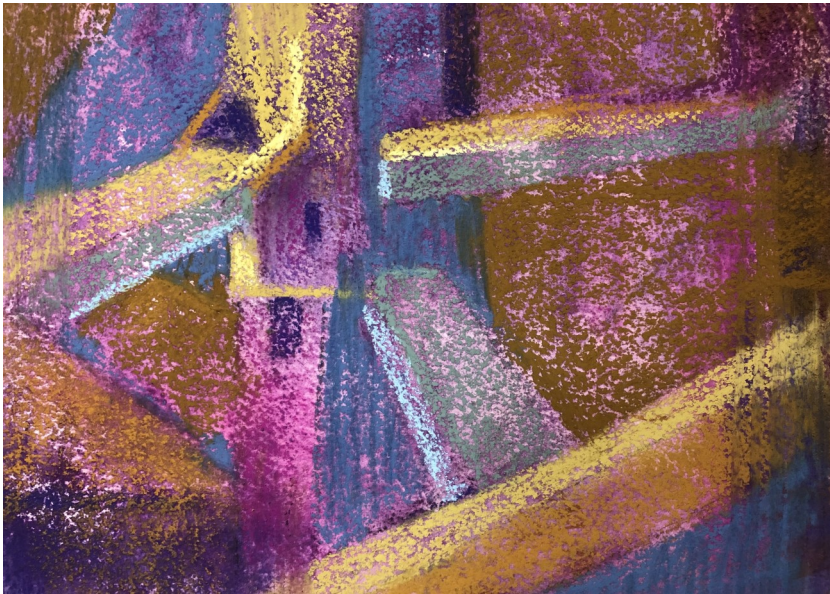


Catch and Release 8 x 8

Perhaps I interpreted the title of adventure 5 too literally as the subject of my piece is a beetle's appendage. I took a photo of an iridescent beetle to share with my grandson, who is very into bugs. I zoomed in on an appendage as inspiration for my abstracted rendering. The substrate is media board coated with my micaceous iron oxide. This was my favorite adventure so far! No animals were harmed in this production.

Deborah Chase, Hendersonville

Untitled 6.5 x 8.5



This was a lot of fun. Here is the original photo, the close up in monotone, and the abstraction.

It was done on 140lb. Arches CP with an underpainting done in pastel and Turpenoid over an old watercolor. It is 8 1/2" x 6 1/2".
Untitled.

I also enjoyed looking at the color groupings on design-seeds.com mentioned at the on line meeting. Looking forward to seeing the rest of the show.



Nancy Clausen, Swannanoa



I used 20 x 16 LuxArchival.
The pastels I used Paul deMarras's, Sennelier, Great American and Rembrandt.
This is a rhododendron flower from a bush in our back yard. I took one of the petals and envisioned what a bee might see.
It's not finished, but it was fun.

From a Bee's View 20 x 16



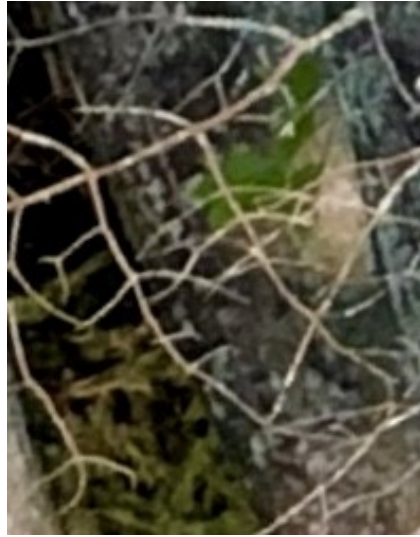
Marcia Donley, Zionville

I got a little carried away with color, but it needed to happen. The most interesting thing about this little pastel is that I did it on a piece of corrugated cardboard, and let the texture show through. The mocha colors were nice to begin with, but I was bored with brown about halfway through. Maybe another time.....

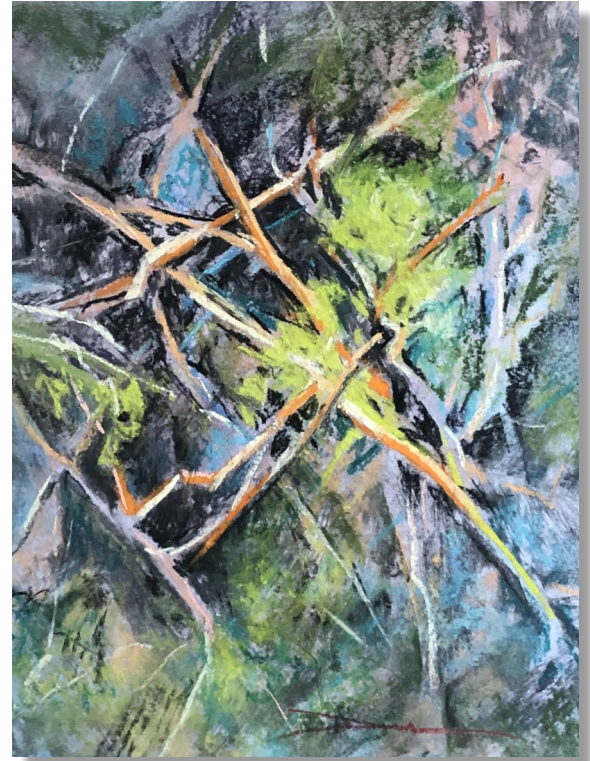
Flamestitch 9 x 6



Terrilynn Dubreuil, Asheville



Tangle 8 x 10 (pumiced board)



Attached are my original photo, cropped photo, and painting.

Will Evans, Fairview

Purple Haze 9 x 12



Attached is a 9x12 on Colourfix paper, burgundy color to establish the darks, therefore no underpainting required.



J Kay Gordon, Weaverville

Tostito Junction 6 x 9 on Uart 800

So...looking for ideas for the photo and saw a partial bag of Tostitos my husband had left on the counter. Lots of shapes, colors and contrast. Searched around with a



zoom until I found a corner of the bag that looked promising. I actually painted it with the other side up... thinking of it as sort-of mountains. ..



Photo zoom

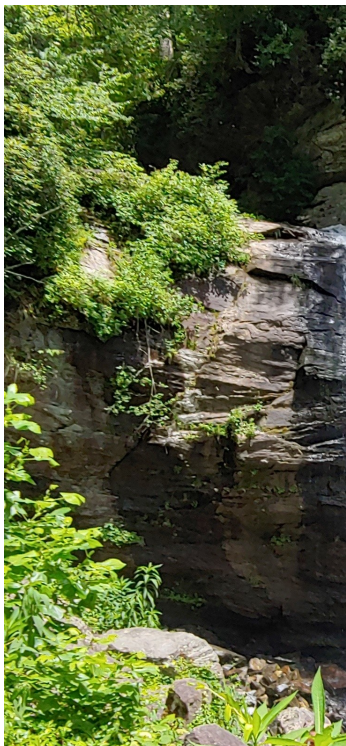


Photo

When I finished it and was showing it to my husband, I tried turning it upside down...liked it a lot more that way! Don't tell anyone!

MaryAnn Grib, Gray, TN

Inside the Cliff 9 x 8



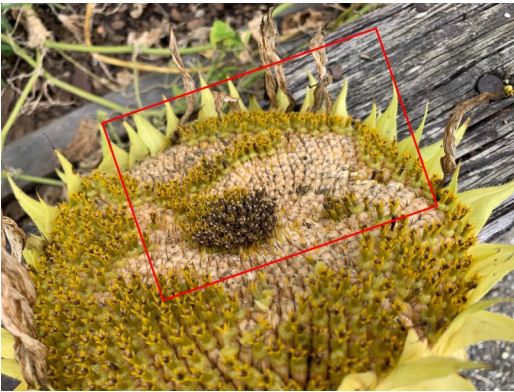
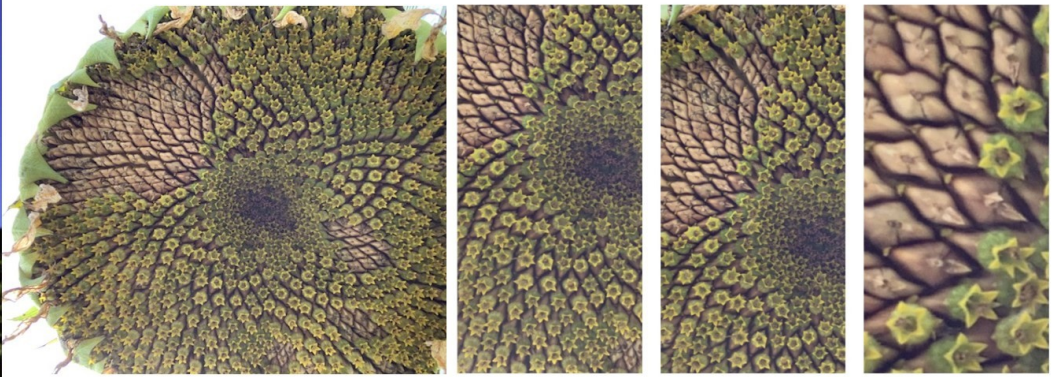
My photo is a zoomed in portion of a cliff by a waterfall. I liked the 2 dark openings and the rock texture and the forms it created.

I think I could of done better with the abstraction...its still a bit too literal but I have to say I used the photo only to put down a quick drawing and then the rest was improvised from my memory.

I liked the excercise in that it was more about creating a strong composition.



Sami Griffis, Flat Rock



Photos and photo zooms

Finished my adventure in under 2 hours, which is a record for me. Could be because I have been watching these sunflowers at work for quite a while. My

story is below and images are attached. This was a great challenge!

SciFi Sunflower

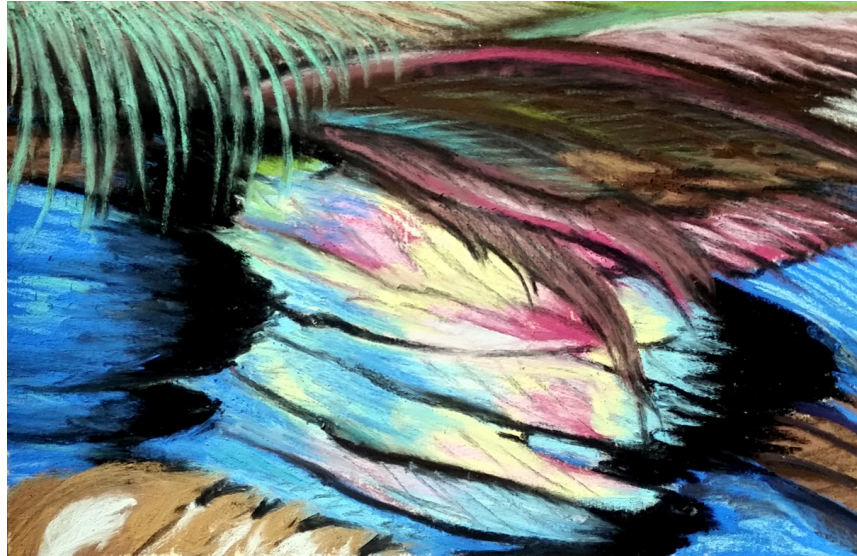
6 x 12 on Uart 400



A coworker planted a garden at work, so everyone could enjoy fresh tomatoes, cucumbers and squash all summer long. He also planted sunflowers, which I think are just beautiful flowers. I have my lunch outside often, and enjoy seeing the goldfinches devour the seeds from the flowerheads. The birds hang upside down from the flower and have a real feast!

Sunflowers start out so beautiful and colorful, but end up (as they die back) with an otherworldly appearance. This is also the best time to see the fibonacci pattern in the seedheads. With this pattern, and the ragged appearance, I decided to name my painting "SciFi Sunflower". Not a true abstract, but I attempted to enhance the otherworldly quality.

The birds got the head for dinner!



I have attached the original photo of a hen Woodie and duckling that I used for Challenge 5... a hen wood duck & duckling.

For this challenge, I zeroed in on the colorful, iridescent wing feathers, which is known as the speculum.

My abstract pastel is 4" x 6" and I titled it "Speculatum".

This was another interesting exercise, and thoughts of Georgia O'Keefe flashed through my mind often as I painted.

Kathy Hawk, Kingsport, TN

Here is my 5x7 pastel of the inside of a tulip from my yard. I loved doing this and hope to make another attempt.

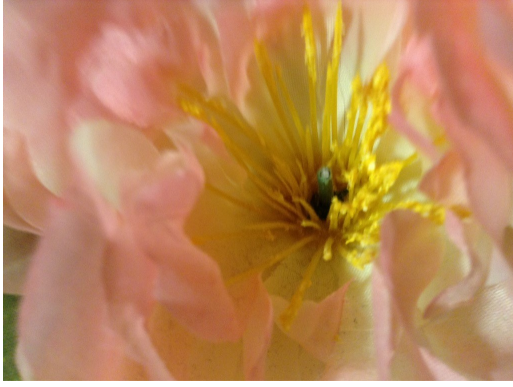
Up Close with a Tulip

photo

5 x 7



Gail Helton, Knoxville, TN



Photo

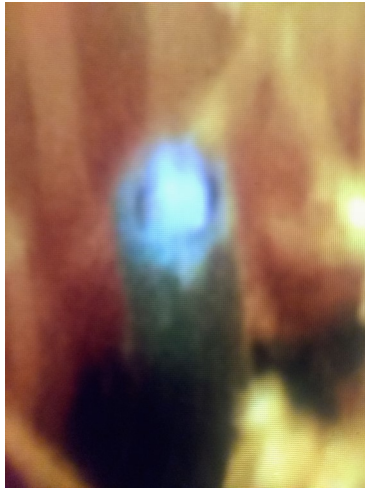
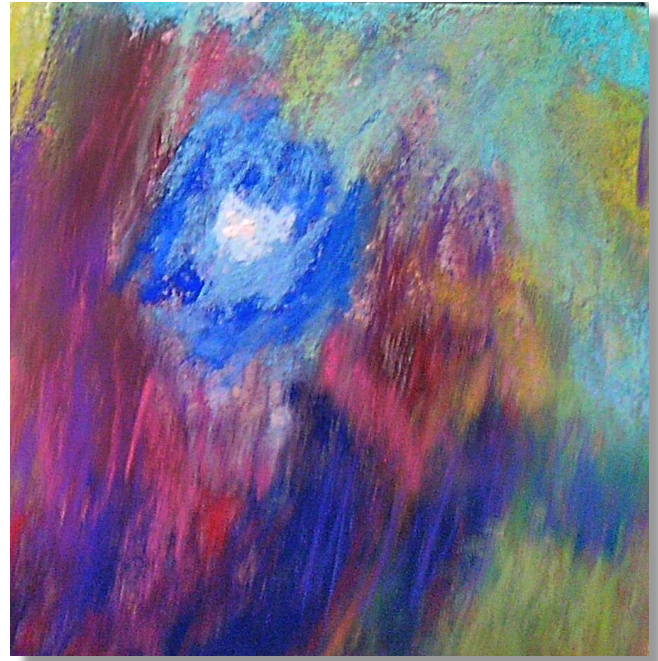


Photo zoom



Seeing Into 5.5 x 5.5

Took an up close picture of a flower, zoomed in on the picture for an extreme closeup and painted abstract from the extreme closeup.

Ginny Hotze, Asheville

Buzz 9 x 12



Karen Knaub, Lake Lure

(title) 12 x 9



12 x 9 on Canson, nu pastels and Rembrandts.

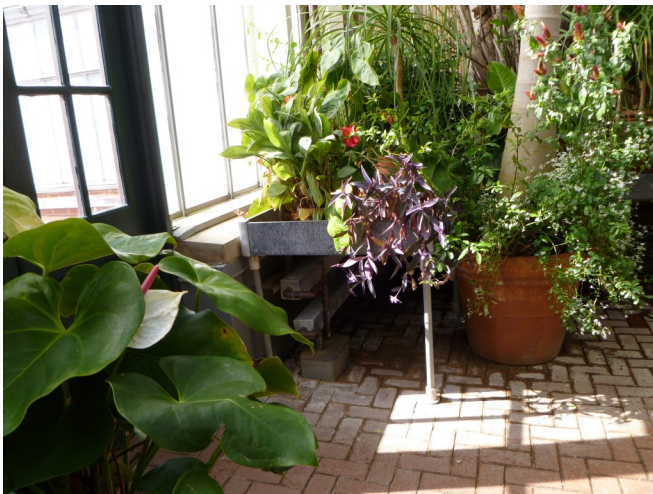
I took this photo last year in HI.

Sorry but I am not much of an abstract painter so I used cheap paper and pastels for this exercise.

It was fun though and helped me realize I could find a picture within a picture.



Cindy Lidd, Asheville



Plant Study 8 x 8



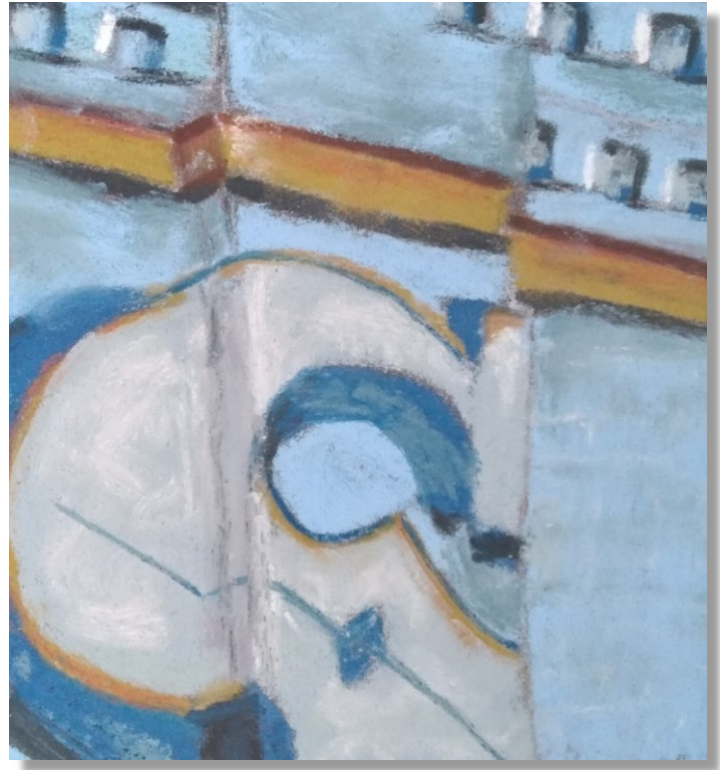
it's fairly small, an 8"x8" on Uart sanded paper.

The photo is from awhile back, 2011, at the Biltmore Conservatory, on a February day. All of the plantings there are so beautiful; one could spend the entire morning there!

Linda Medders-Jackson, Cross, SC

Sorry its little been dog shows since challenge out. Tried to make it abstractly. Definitely not an abstracter.

*Coulda been a sign
6.5 x 7.25*



Don Osterberg, Hendersonville

The Bee's Knees , 11 x 14

Title "The Bee's Knees" I couldn't resist, I hope it's not copyrighted. 11 by 14" soft pastel on UArt 500 paper. Wednesday, when this came out, I had a swarm of bees in my backyard. 1st picture is the swarm, the 2nd is my zoomed distortion, and the 3rd is my final painting. I did like the distortion but I am drawn to realism so I kind of brought it halfway back to to a semi-abstract stage. This was fun. Thank you



Second painting... This adventure got me so excited about bees that I spent today doing the attached. Realistic is still my favorite.



Joy Rademacher, Southport



Photo



Photo zoom



Let's Hold Hands and Dance Again 9 x 9

I have included the picture of the flower, the zoomed-in version and my painting...on Lux Archival paper with alcohol wash

Tracey Risteen, Waynesville



Early Spring 8 x 11



Rainy day for painting. Attached is Early Spring 8x11. The periwinkle flowers are lungwort. I struggled with the flower color and I don't think the composition is very strong. Ended up a little more realistic than abstract, but I didn't have a plan because I have almost zero experience with abstract. Thank you for opportunity to try something new.

Gary Rupp, Black Mountain

I decided I just wanted to let the colors flow!



The original photo is a FL Palm at sunset.

FL Colors 9 x 9



Ron Shepard, Gastonia

On LuxArchival Professional Sanded Paper. I used Design brand Nupastels

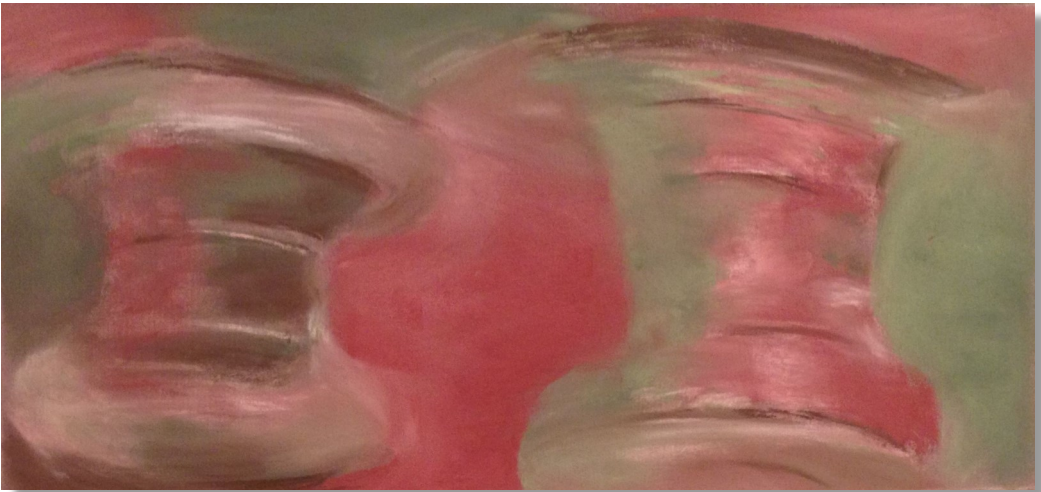
Eye of the Flame 8 x 10



My Day Lily reference photo. The abstraction is from the flower on the right side of the two.

This was a first time using this paper and first time ever doing an abstract. For me it was an exercise in rendering found and lost edges given the colors distributed within the petals. It was a challenge for sure.

Jane Voyles, Asheville



Wait 5 x 10

Sawyer Bear Whitemiller, Cape Coral, FL

Ugly is beautiful 5 x 7

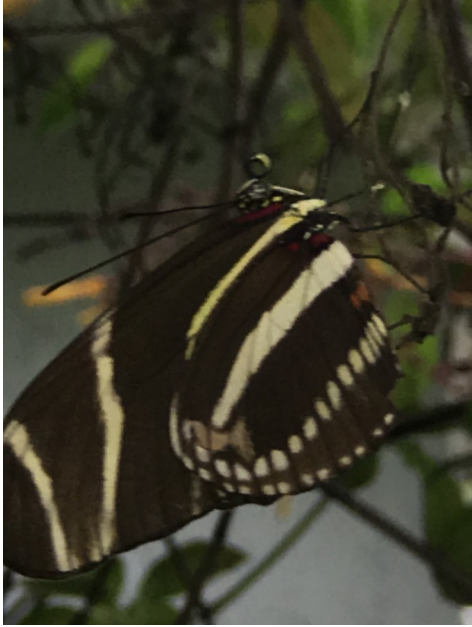


Photo of La Zebra Farfalla

I used the method from the recent "Sassy Sunflowers" art demonstration to do the underpainting for Adventure V. "Ugly is beautiful."

My painting is 5 x 7 pastel on Uart paper.

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