

The following 29 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 AA-5: “One Image/Many Voices”

Welcome to our Fifth Pastel Adventure in Series AA. To set the stage, consider the following descriptions.

Adjectives used to describe barns: Tranquil, dilapidated, large, ramshackle, charming, ruinous, shabby, spacious, earthy, capacious, droughty, dirty, red, white, washed...

Adjectives used to describe paintings of barns: vibrant, dramatic, earthy, cliched, magical, realistic, abstracted, energetic, absorbing, peaceful, eclectic, serene, spiritual...

In this adventure, the challenge is to use your unique voice to create a painting of a shared image...a barn! (See the image below.)

Step 1: We have provided a photograph of a barn. We will all paint from the same image but you may modify the image! You may crop, embellish, select your palette, etc. In other words, create your painting of the barn in your own voice.

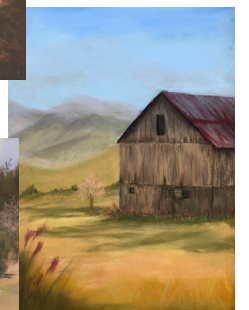
Step 2: The size of the piece is up to you. Paint! Have fun!

Step 3: **Write a brief description** of your process and the choices you made.

Step 4: Take a photo of your painting and send it **along with your title and size** to Kay Gordon (jkaygordon364@gmail.com) by May 26th at 6 PM. Please feel free to **include the description of your process** with your entry.

Step 5: Remember, this deadline is firm and nothing can be posted that is received after 6 PM on May 26th. Your painting does not need to be finished. The adventure is designed so we can be painting, exploring, experimenting and enjoying pastels together!

Photo of barn for Adventure AA-5...along with the uniquely creative entries...



Catharin Banta, Hendersonville

Blue Barn 9 x 12

Uart 400 pastel paper

I was thrilled to see the barn as our subject matter , yet sometimes I find drawing them correctly a challenge.

I started out thinking I would use an analogous color scheme, and paint each plane on the barn a different color. The underpainting looked a little crazy so then the blue ensued.

I also chose to draw the barn larger because I wanted to experiment with the colors and create a bit of a disheveled, lived in look.

As always it is fun to think outside the box and I appreciate the chance to do so!



Jane Best, Morganton



The barn in the photo looked like a timber frame barn that had been around for many years.

I decided to crop the photo and add the blue ridge mountains in the distance.

The palette I chose is basically complementary yellows and purples.

I really enjoyed this challenge and I would enjoy seeing this barn in person.

Assorted pastels on pastelcard.

Lay-by Time 9 x 12

Beryl Bradley, Brevard, NC

No title 9 x 12



Enjoyed working on my 2nd barn painting. Haven't had time to finish it and still have lots of work to do to complete it, but here it is in its unfinished state.

9x12 Uart black paper.

Thanks for all you do to keep me painting!

Deborah Chase, Hendersonville

Big Ole Blue Barn

10.5 x 13.5

I tried adding trees, shadows, a silo, different formats and value schemes.

Finally I decided to focus on the shapes of the barn.



Nancy Clausen, Swannanoa

On Terra Cotta Pastel Premier paper. The size is 12 x 16. I used a variety of pastels including Great American, Gerault, and Schmicke, plus some others.

For now it's done, but I expect I'll do some touch up after I put it aside for a while. I enjoyed it although I had some trouble finding the color I envisioned for the barn. Once I found it, things



The Old Barn 12 x 16

Claire Crook, Hendersonville



The Path
12 x 9

The path leading behind the barn drew my attention.

The stone work and underground barn area reminded me of a barn near where I grew up.

The painting is on a 9x12 Pastelmat paper, and I used nupastel and Terry Ludwig soft pastels.

This was an enjoyable challenge. I look forward to seeing every one else's take on the old barn.

Ruth Crowe, Matthews, NC

Memories of Dairy Farming

9 x 12



This has been a real challenge for me because I was out of town until Sunday pm and have some appointments since. It is a challenge which I shall enjoy completing after submission.

I choose a 9 x 12 Art Spectrum Color fix pastel paper in taupe. I decided to focus on the barn. After drawing on the paper with a pastel pencil, I did an underpainting with hard pastels and fixed it with alcohol.

Since I grew up on a dairy farm, I plan to add some cows in the field beside the barn. To do that I will print a black and white copy of the painting and experiment with the cows on the print

before adding them to the picture. I am looking forward to completing the painting. I will name the painting "Memories of Dairy Farming".

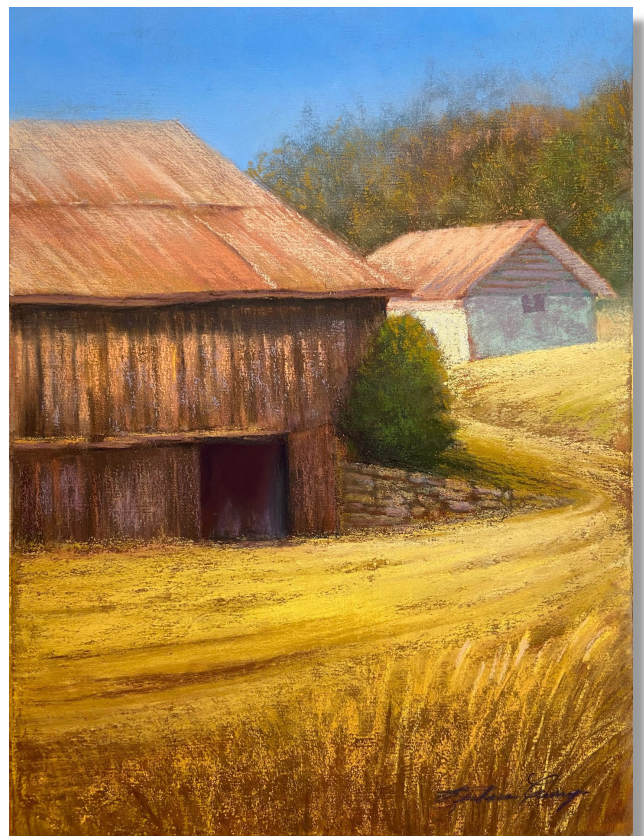
Thank you for another interesting challenge

Barbara Curry, Rock Hill, SC

Barn Door's Open! 12 x 9

I grew up on a cattle farm in southwestern Michigan. As I child I spent many hours riding my bicycle on pathways that led from one barn to the other, the milk house, and other buildings that housed tractors and equipment. So, I cropped the image to focus on the most essential elements and used gradation and directional strokes to help describe a journey from the foreground to the barn door, along the stone wall, up and around the path to the little building on top of the hill and background trees, then over to the barn roof and down the barn siding that carries you back to the barn door - and around we go again! Finally, I used a little humor in the title with a "made you look" phrase.

After cropping and printing a 5" x 7" of the photo in Adobe PhotoShop as reference, I started with a loose drawing of shapes and an alcohol wash underpainting using Charvin water-soluble pastels on Wallis sanded paper for structure. To finish the piece I used a combination of Unison, Girault, and finally Schminke pastels, in a warm fall palette of yellows, rusts, and greens with a clear blue sky.



Diane de Grasse, Black Mountain

Old Barn

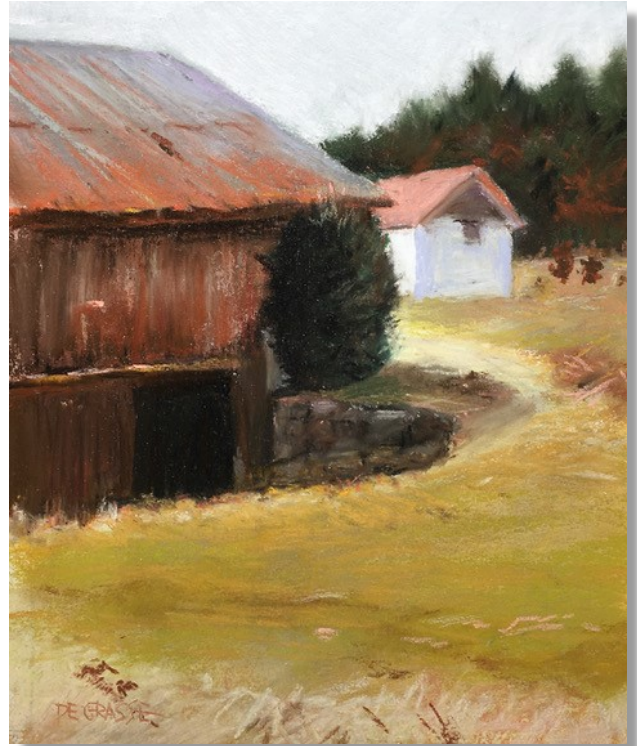
9.5 x 8.5

You've given us another good challenge!

Though the grand old barn provided solidarity and even an opportunity for abstraction, I focused on the convergence of shapes and angles.

I lowered the tree line to strengthen the slope of the barn roof, and emphasized the orange, which I love.

By highlighting a pathway between the two buildings I hoped to suggest an entry into the scene.
"Old Barn" 9.5"x 8.5" in mostly soft pastels on Art Spectrum paper



Natalia Dixon, Brevard



Boone Barn

9 x 12

Here is a start to my Barn painting on 9x12 sandpaper.

I am enjoying playing with peach sky after our last demo.

I also found a hand made bark frame that will go nicely with this rustic scene

Marcia Donley, Zionville, NC

Barn in Progress 11 x 14



When I looked at my entry this morning my first thought was to get out the matches....but I do hate to waste paper, so I alcoholed it out and started fresh.

Still have a way to go, but here is my barn....in progress.

NEVER SAY DIE!

Terrilynn Dubreuil, Asheville

Hay Barn 9 x 12 on pumiced board

Ah, the quintessential barn .. what to do to make it a bit more unique? The shared photograph is simple enough to allow a plethora of interpretations .. but there is so much going on in life right now and I want to get this done.

I grab a prepared hardboard that is textured with pumice gel and bristle brush - something that will add interest to my painting. I play around with the image a bit on Procreate .. pushing colors and trying to get used to this new iPad application I've acquired with all its varied strokes and possibilities. Set up the edited image and start with a solid 3D sketch of the barn using Nupastel. Toss in some color then alcohol wash it into the texture. Are we having fun yet? I am! Then I continue to develop the shadows and highlights and push the aerial perspective for distance. Finally skip across the top of the bristle brushed texture to complete the painting.



Sitting back I notice that the texture looks like hay. Hey! The result is accidental but is totally in keeping with the subject and the grassy fields surrounding the barn.

Thanks for the challenge.

Will Evans, Fairview

Forgotten
12 x 12

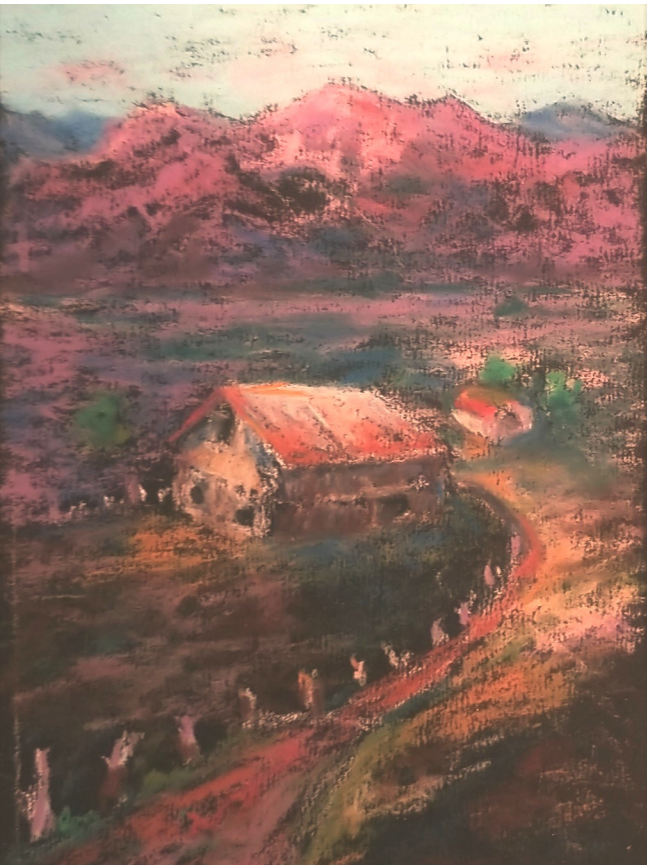
Here's my submittal. 12"x12" on UArt. Mix of hard and soft pastels. Named "Forgotten"

I love barns and I thought I'd give it a proper setting, but as it developed I thought how many were slowly disappearing, a terrible loss to history, architecture and it's hard life.



J Kay Gordon, Weaverville

Mountain Homestead Sunrise 6 x 4



Until recently, we lived on an old Mountain Homestead with a barn much like this one. Our surrounding mountains were not as high as the ones I have imagined in this painting, but they did rise about 1000 feet above us.

Our barn, like this one, was a senior citizen... graying boards, sagging door rails, rusting metal roofing...but it still was strong and served us well for many years.

I sketched with white charcoal on black Uart 800 paper, and completed the painting with Create-a-color hard pastels.

Sami Griffis, Flat Rock

The Colorful Barn

12 x 9.5

on Colourfix Paper

Such a beautiful image of an old barn we had for inspiration. I see so many like this as I travel the backroads of western NC. All have had a colorful past - farmers, animals, gatherings, crops, picnics and dances, families then decline. I wanted to present this barn in a fashion that celebrates that colorful past.

I changed the orientation to a vertical format and revised the landscape around it. I wanted the viewer to feel as if they were traveling upward to see this barn.

Color was most important here - to reflect that of the region as well as that "colorful past". I chose a deep Storm Blue Colourfix sanded pastel paper for the ground. This was to help add depth and brightness to the shadows. Then reds for the barn, and golds/greens for the grasses. It becomes more of a primary color scheme, with some secondaries. This says youthful in itself.



The simplification of shapes adds strength to the image. Just like the barn was when it was first built. I hope you enjoy this painting.

EVER WONDER WHY MOST BARNS ARE RED? HERE'S WHY...

I was wondering why barns were red and here is why. Very interesting.

I grew up in Florida. It was too hot there to have traditional barns. Most never had sides; only a roof to shield the rain. And the posts (called poles) were made of cypress and heart pine (plentiful woods at the time) so they lasted a long time. Besides, hurricanes would take out a more solid structure. The pole barn where I kept my horse was over a hundred years old, and that was in the 70's. And that old barn is still standing. But they weren't red. Red is my favorite color so I think red barns are just beautiful!

Sami

<https://www.wideopencountry.com/why-barns-are-red/>

Alec Hall, Hendersonville



Prairie Sunset

9 x 12

Richeson Premium
Pastel Surface—black

When I contemplated how I would incorporate this barn into a painting, my first thought was “What animal(s) am I going to include in the scene?”

However, the more I thought about it, the more I decided to just keep it simple. To me, this barn had an old, abandoned feel to it, so that was the premise that I decided to pursue. I put it in front of a sunset sky, which I felt accentuated the “drab plainness” of its unpainted surface. The sunset also symbolized that perhaps this barn was in the “sunset of its usefulness”.

Kathy Hutchinson, Rutherfordton, NC

Almost Forgotten

I have long wanted to paint a field near my home when it is filled with beautiful round hay bales...so I placed this month's barn challenge there...

I'm almost done but time is up so here's my attempt.



Lynn Jackson, Brevard

Purple Barn with Orange Sherbet Sky

9 x 12

Purple Barn with Orange Sherbet Sky was an exploration of simple shapes and limited colors. I purposely used a lack of detail as I normally use an abundance of detailed strokes in my normal style of painting(shown in Long Way Home).



Long Way Home

9 x 9

The Long Way Home uses a strong contrast of colors to add a dramatic light effect to the landscape. It has a limited palette of colors too, but more than the Purple Barn. Overlapping detail strokes also help to add interest and depth to the composition.

I enjoyed both styles of painting and plan to explore different uses of pastels in the future.

Karen Knaub, Lake Lure



Rust-tique

9x12

I've always enjoyed painting a barn. There is something fun about giving a new life to something old.

9x12 on terracotta premier paper

Cindy Lidd, Asheville

The Barn 12 x12



I have attached my painting appropriately titled "The Barn"; it is a 12x12;

I tried a couple of different color schemes and this one seemed best to me; I'm not too happy with the end result, but I can't seem to get "focused".

Thanks for the "adventure".

Regina Linton, Fletcher, NC



Classic Country Barn

9 x 12

For this adventure, I used an under painting with Cretacolor hard pastels in warm colors. Then I used medium soft sticks by Richardson. My last layer was painted with Richardson soft pastels. I think I will sleep on it before deciding if I am finished with it. There is something missing and I can't figure what it is at this late hour! Regardless, it was a fun

painting and I look forward to seeing many more renditions!

Thanks so much for another great challenge!

Margaret Lyn-Soroken, Black Mountain

Lonely Barn

6 x 11

Fun barn, have to work on sky.

Title: Lonely barn

Size: 11x6

Paper uart 280 with assorted

Pastel



Meryl Meyer, Weaverville



Self-Portrait 9 x 12

9 x 12 Gray Pastel Premier Sanded Paper

Assorted soft pastels and nu pastels.

One thing led to another when I decided to make the barn a self-portrait.

This barn is nestled in a cove surrounded by trees and mountains. A dirt road leads up to it.

The barn is weathered, and aged. The blue metal roof which also represents my blue colored hair is a bit

curved in from years of wear. I decorated the entrance way with a square pin wheel quilt pattern, placed over the opening, a tradition here in the mountains.

I used to quilt. I have some art prints hanging on a clothes line, for visitors to look at.

My studio door is always open for friends and art lovers, stray cats, but not the Bears of course.

I love wild flowers.

I used the underpainting and layered highlights to give the wood a weathered look.

I grounded up some pastel and used a brush with a dab of water to paint the pinwheel pattern. At first the yellow was too bright so I toned it down.

I did not plan this ahead. I kept thinking of additions as I went along. I was decorating and It was fun and challenging. I never know where my creative mind will lead me.

Thank you for this challenge.

Don Osterberg, Hendersonville



Whimsical

11 x 14

I have to admit I almost did not do this. It was just that I have painted barns all my life and although they do sell, it gets a little boring. So I did an alcohol/hard pastel underpainting and just let it evolve. I don't think it would sell, but I had fun. Thank you for all you do for APS. Enjoy Maine.

"Whimsical" 11" x 14" soft pastel on UArt 500 paper. I have included some shots of the progression. The 1st one is the finished painting.

Thanks again.

Christine Robinson, Leicester

Since the original photo was so drab (I'm sure that was the intention, to make us get creative) I decided to get colorful. Working on the smooth side of Canson's terra cotta colored paper, I did the underpainting with the Wolf Kahn set of Diane Townsend Terrages. I wanted to play up the light and shadow like the golden afternoon glow, and play light against dark. I'll admit, part way through I was thinking "I can't show this to anyone," but as I kept working it started to take shape. I do love the vibrant colors.

Afternoon Glow

12 x 9

Diane Townsend Terrages and Sennelier pastels

Afternoon Glow

9 x 12



Gary Rupp, Black Mountain



Here's my painting of the barn. I've attached two photos. One is uncropped, the other is the more finished piece. Thanks so much for doing all this...even when on vacation in one of my favorite spots in the world!

Barn Statement

14 x 24



With this challenge I was all set to do a bright red barn in a very green pasture since I grew up in Northwestern Ohio where the majority of barns are indeed red with white trim. However, the more I looked at the photo I felt drawn to a much more muted palette.

I chose about eight different hues and then worked on values to create what I feel is a more contemplative landscape.

I included the uncropped painting where I worked on a surface 20x26 because I didn't really know at the beginning what size I would have at the end. This is a trick I learned from Doug Dawson, who would start all his plein air pieces on much larger surfaces than what would end up in a frame.

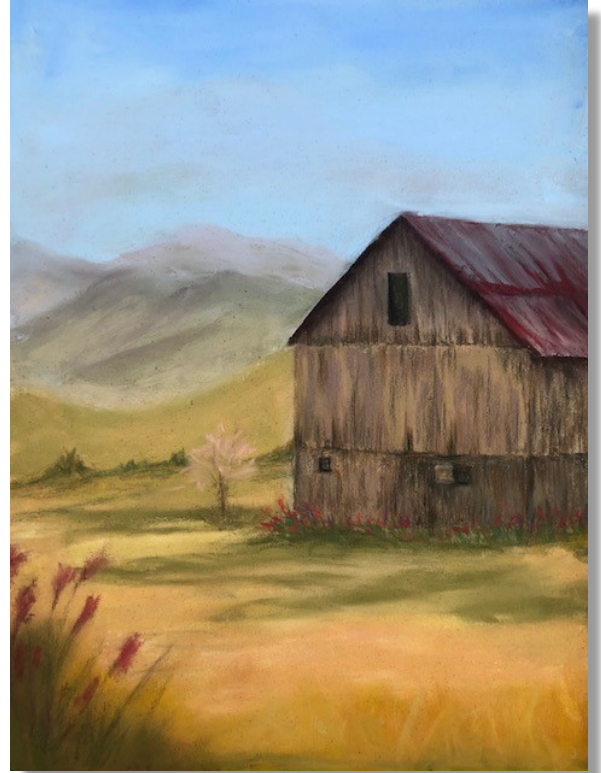
I really enjoyed painting this barn.

The Old Homestead

12 x 9

I enjoyed this month's challenge. I loved the aged barn.

I struggle with landscapes, so it was adventurous for me to change the landscape around the barn. I added the red flowers to amplify the red in the old metal roof. I hope it all works. UArt 400 paper Sennelier landscape soft pastels, Unison soft pastels, Richeson semi hard pastels, and Faber Castell color pencils.



Old Barn in a Meadow

6 x 8

6x8 on Uart 400lb. paper. " Old Barn in a Meadow".

I wanted to take a dull photo and turn it into something vibrant, colorful and pleasing to the eye. I did no underpainting, just used layered intense color. If I came on this barn while hiking, I would be drawn to take a peek inside. Would you?

The Barnhouse 8 x 12



...on U-Art paper with Blue Earth and Colour Block Pastels

For this Adventure, I started with a dry underpainting. I chose night time, because it would be fun picking out the colors for my palette.

My favorite part of this painting is when I crumbled up the white pastel and tossed it on my painting to create the night time stars in the sky.

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