



The following 22 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 AAA-2: “Take a Shine to It!”

This is the second of six Adventures in this series. These Adventures are designed for you to enjoy and explore the many facets of pastel painting. We believe the joy of doing these adventures is further enhanced by working with other artists on the same challenge and then sharing our experiences with each other. Join us as we set out on a new Adventure!

In this adventure, the challenge will be to make an object appear shiny. Here’s how it will work:

Step 1: Metallic objects (silver pitchers, chrome bumpers, shiny brass candlesticks...or whatever you pick as your model) can be made to look real only if you can create the appearance of a shine. This is not done with a silver-colored pastel...you probably just looked in your collection to see if you have one? Pastels, by their nature, do not create reflective marks.

Step 2: Shine can be simulated by painting what you SEE...a light color next to a dark...a reflection that follows the contours of the object...the sharper the “reflected image,” the shinier the object will appear. You can find these and other techniques on the internet...Google, “make metal shine with pastels” if you need more ideas.

Step 3: Set up a still life that includes silver, chrome, brass or other shiny metal object/s. Experiment with creating that “shine” that you can see.

Step 4: When you finish, take photos of your still life and your painting and share your methods and insights.

Step 5: Send **the photo of your artwork, your comments, and the title and size** of your painting to Kay Gordon (jkaygordon364@gmail.com) by August 25th at 6 PM.

Step 6: Remember, this deadline is firm and nothing can be posted that is received after 6 PM on August 25th. 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.

Kathy Amspacher, Hendersonville



Shiny Jonathan 8 x 18

This entry may not conform to the specs. If not I understand.

I rarely do still life or shiny objects but love to see them in paintings. I did however, use a photo of crows being "still lives" on a stump in my back yard.

They are "objects" of my affection and have names!

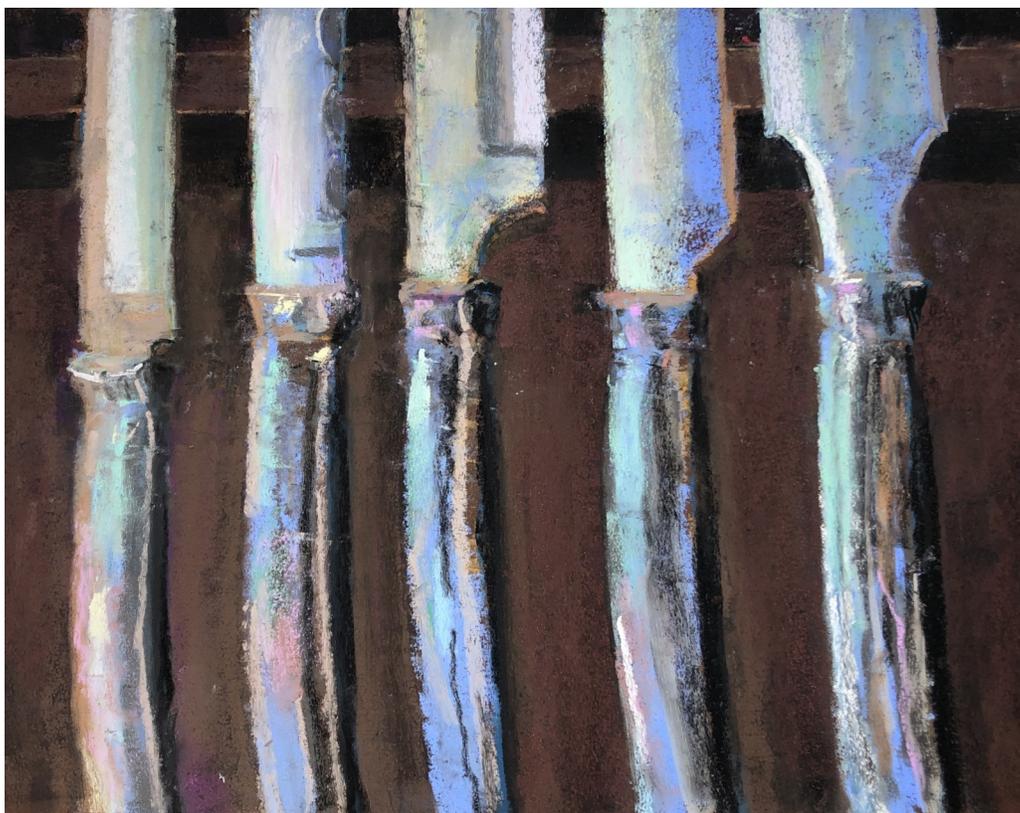
They almost looked metallic in the photo (from a remote camera).

Thanks again Kay and team for this fun challenge.

Jane Best, Morganton

I've never used these knives though they've been hanging on my kitchen wall for over twenty years. I decided they deserved a little attention so chose them as subjects for my painting.

Hard and soft pastels on art spectrum paper.



Knife Rack 9 x 12

Deborah Chase, Hendersonville, NC



I think I bit off more than I could chew for the time frame I had to work.

I tried sketching the image but it got confusing so I resorted to gridding my sketch.

All three forms of pastels; stick, Pan, and pencil were used.

It was a fun adventure exploring “shiny”.



Just Hanging Round

8.5 x 11

Nancy Clausen, Swannanoa

Silver Memory 9 x 12



Here is my painting. There are some things I still need to touch up, but I think it's basically done.

This has been a learning experience for me. I checked out some Utube demos before I started and remembered Luana saying she used blue to depict silver. So it's done in various shades of blue and blue gray.

The painting is of a silver creamer which is part of a silver tea service that was given to my parents when they were married. I put some other things with it to show reflections in the creamer.

It's done on Ampersand board, 9 x12. Pastels were probably some Schmincke, Great American and Terry Ludwig pastels. I also used Faber Castell pencils.

Before I put the creamer away, it'll need to be polished. The little yellowish spots are tarnish.

Ruth Crowe, Matthews, NC



Small Lamp Still Life

12 x 9

This is a 9 x 12 on 400 beige Uart of a brass lamp with some other objects.

It was a fun experience. As usual it still needs some finishing touches to complete it.

Thanks once again for an interesting challenge.

Diane de Grasse, Black Mountain

I'm now in Maine for this adventure, having made it through TS Henri en route.

Borrowed pottery, doorstep flower and just a bit of a shine.

Mostly hard pastels and pastel pencil on a scrap of ArtSpectrum sanded paper.

Blue Pitcher 7 x 10



Terrilynn Dubreuil, Asheville

White and Rose

9 x 12



Two wine glasses, filled to a good level for swirling for sniffing the aromas.

From my own photo where I played around with the point of view, the reflections and refractions of shiny glass and liquid. Elements must be chosen, exaggerated, eliminated for a painting.

This is not metallic, but when I think "shiny" I think glass. Metal reflects but does not refract at the same time. Here the wires behind are bent through the glass and the liquid inside is distorted. To me, this is fascinating and shiny!



Pitcher Picture
5 x 5
on grey pastelbord



Selected a pewter pitcher for my subject, not so much a distinct shine as a glow. A tomato from the garden provided a spot of intense color

Started with a quick charcoal sketch followed with a variety of hard and soft pastels.

I was interested as to how the pewter caught and reflected the available light sources especially the blue sky and the spot light.

J Kay Gordon, Weaverville

I used Creatacolor and Sennelier pastels.

No silver pastels! What to do for shine? I found, as I expect others did that the best way to portray shine is to paint exactly what you see. The best reflections are those that actually exist.



They are not silver. They are whatever color the environment causes. So...my tea kettle, which is actually a shiny chrome, is light blue (window light), intense yellow (incandescent light above the stove), black (from the handle), and brown (from the wood panel next to the stove).

I found the flames below the kettle more difficult to do...but fun to try to make them seem real.



Tea Time

8 x 6

on brown Pastelmat

MaryAnn Grib, Gray, TN

Well let me start by saying I squeezed this in amid a very busy week.

I worked on this during my vacation with limited supplies. I watched a video as suggested and saw them using pastel pencils which didn't dawn on me to use. I thought easy to transport on vacation...done.

Well, it was an interesting exercise but I really needed some other pastels to finish it. I couldn't get the reflection with the pencils only.

So this is on 9x12 canson tinted paper and it is "untitled" at the moment.



"untitled"
12 x 9

Alec Hall, Hendersonville, NC

Bridle Highlights

6 x 6

Surface: UART 500 grit



While I enjoy viewing a well-constructed and finely-painted still-life, I don't find them personally appealing to paint myself.

However, there are lots of shiny parts on equine tack... stainless steel, chrome, silver, brass, etc. Thus, I opted to paint a closely cropped view of a Clydesdale draft horse in his fancy show gear.

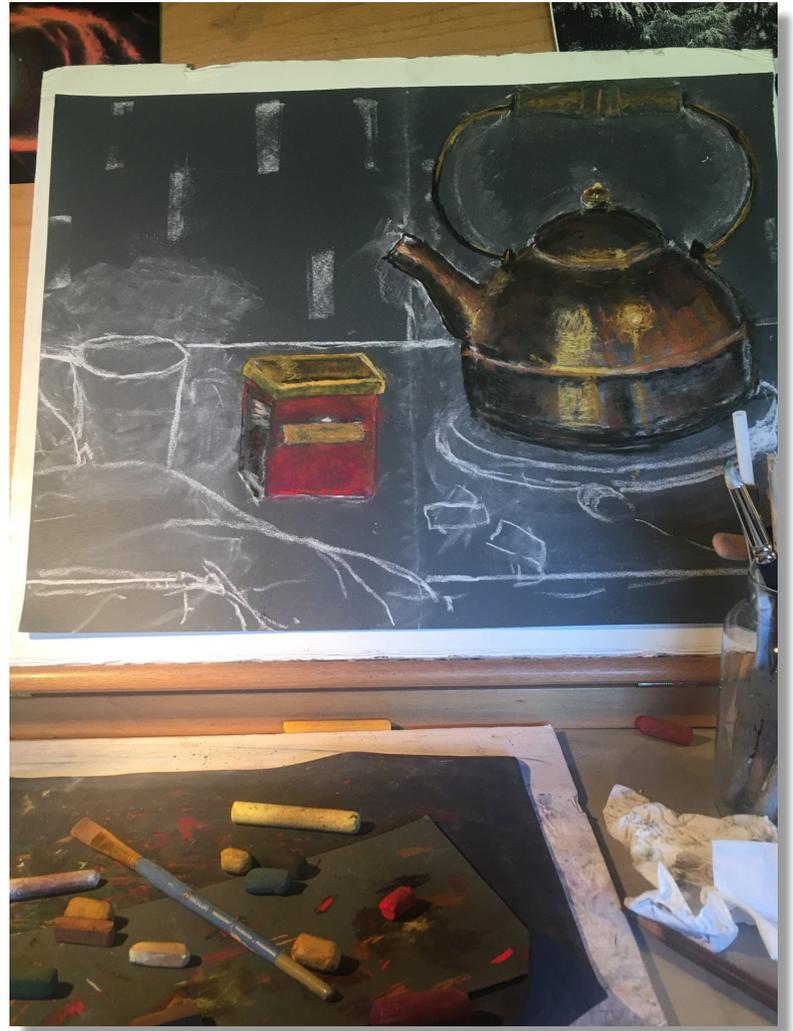
To complete the Challenge, I had to isolate and focus on the colors that I saw and not think about the object. This Challenge once again confirms the versatility of the pastel medium.

Toni Hutcheson, Pisgah Forest, NC

work in progress

Sanded Paper

15 x 20



Lynn Jackson, Brevard

This was definitely a challenge. I don't believe I have tackled metal before.

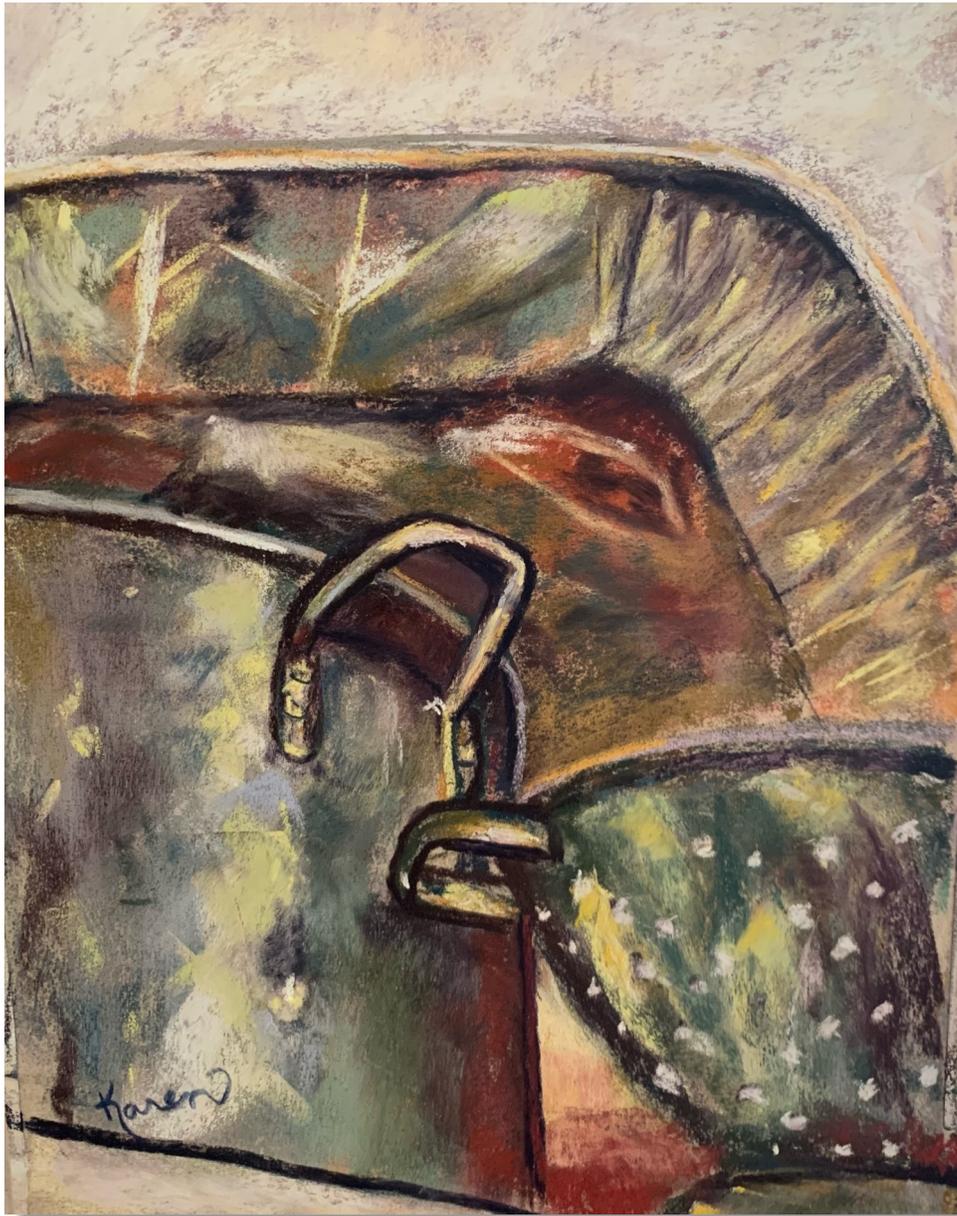
This stock pot was all I had that was metallic. I put vegetables next to it to show reflections.

I used soft pastels and Conte pastel pencils.

A lot of hard work went into getting the stock pot to look shiny! I'm still not happy with it, but have found it time to move on to other pieces!!



Stock Pot
12 x 14



Wow another very challenging challenge.

This one took me longer to find a good subject matter then to paint it.

I loved discovering how much color is in my old pots.

Hope I did it justice.

Cindy Lidd, Asheville

Attached is my painting "Pewter Cup"

It is 12x10 on Uart 600.

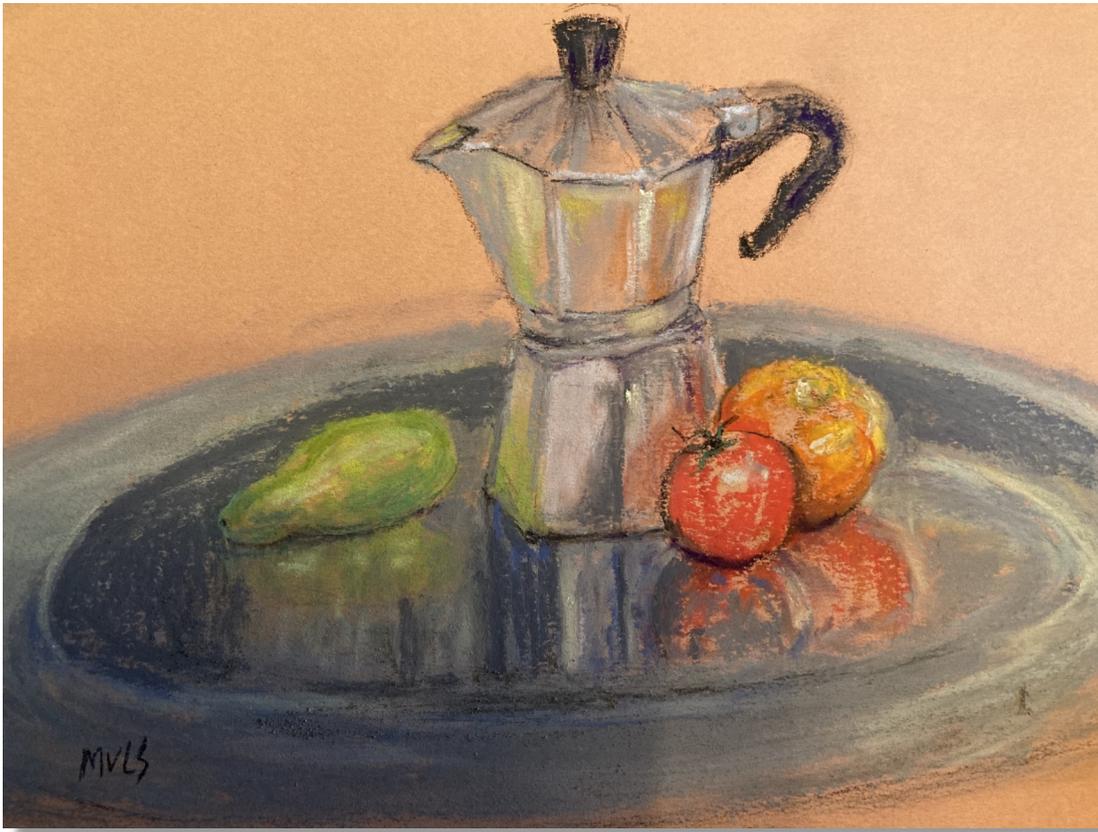
Thanks. Cindy

Pewter Cup

12 x 10



Margaret Lyn-Soroken, Black Mountain



Italian Flavor
9 x 12

Medium: pastels on color paper

Unfinished....after experimenting with other items..I had no shiny stuff I thoughtfinally settled on this.



Chris McGraw, Asheville, NC

Yay! In spite of putting in more hours with my company this week than I've had to do for months, I managed to complete the challenge!

I loved the concept of this adventure. Kind of a 'technically'-oriented, rather than thematic, challenge. So I put together a bunch of 'shiny' things and had fun.

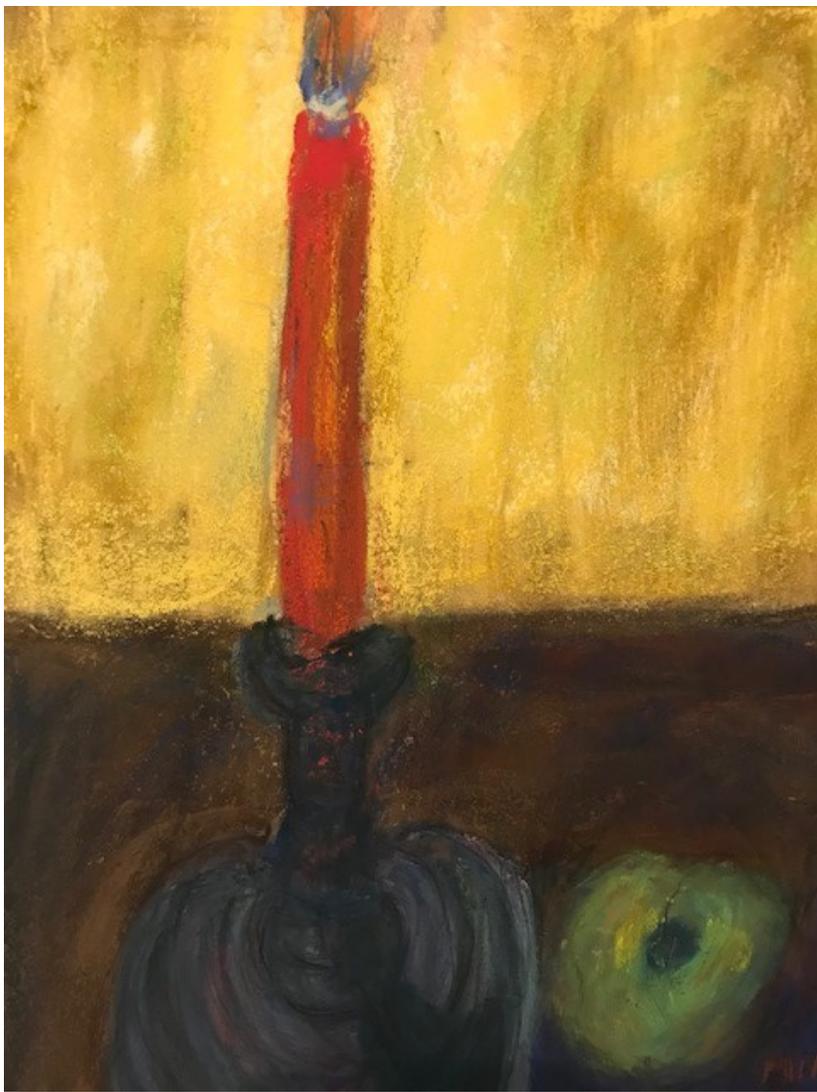
Really enjoyed this one.

Still Life with Flask

11 x 11



Melissa Noll, Charlotte, NC



By Candlelight

10 x 8

On Lux Archival

This was a very difficult challenge because I never do still life, but it was a wonderful learning experience.

It really got me to focus on lights and shadows .

Christine Robinson, Leicester, NC



Copper Pots

9 x 12

Uart black paper

Assorted pastels

It's been a really busy week, and I only had about an hour to paint before this was due.

So...work in progress.

Andrea Stutesman, Black Mountain

It took me quite a while to decide on a subject. I have very few metallic objects in my home that were suitable.

I have a friend with a mustang and remembered the horse emblem on the front.

I'm not sure are how successful I was, but it was a good challenge.

UArt 400 Black paper with Unison soft pastel and Caran d'Ache pastel pencils

Mustang

9 x 12



Jane Voyles, Asheville, NC

Cans with Spouts

5.5 x 7.5 Canson



I think these are brass rather than copper--I had wanted to depict more shine than was actually there after I had shied away from the really shiny objects as beyond my reach.

Then I started out with a commitment to colors that betrayed me .. but I wanted to try a straightforward dry underpainting--and then, I ran out of tooth!

This was fun, and each experiment does bring its "Oh ..." moments for sure! Someday, maybe before long . . . at least a suggestion of some shadows?

Sawyer Bear Whitemiller, Cape Coral, FL

The Sword on the Wall

7x 10



The first thing I thought of when I saw this Adventure was “Sword.” I always am doodling and drawing swords and other types of blades.

First, I put a piece of tape over the painting to make the sword one shape and not crooked.

Then I did an alcohol wash with brown tones.

Next, I did one final coat of brown, then I took the tape off and then worked on the sword. I painted the handle to be made of leather, and the guard, metal inlaid with gems. For the pommel I made a big ruby, and for the beginning of the blade a sapphire.

The blade was a little tricky with the light reflecting, but it was fun. I loved this Adventure.

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