



The following 28 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 AAAA-5: “Breakers”

Welcome to our FIFTH Pastel Adventure in Series AAAA called “Breakers.” In this adventure, the challenge will be to portray a breaking ocean wave as a prominent feature in your painting.

Ocean waves can be a very complex subject to sort out. The colors of the water in the wave have many variables, for example, the height of the wave, the light source, water turbulence and water temperature to name a few. You will notice the base of the wave is usually thicker and darker, while the thinner crest is typically significantly lighter and a different color. Foam below the wave and spray above the crest may form tiny bubbles that often reflect the light differently from the wave itself. Needless to say, there is a lot going on in what looks to be a simple wave breaking on the shore! Here’s the challenge:

Step 1: Take some time to study waves from still photos, as the constant motion is difficult to follow. Also, look at other paintings and see how different artists render waves. (See the illustrations below for inspiration.)

Step 2: There are numerous online videos that demonstrate painting waves using soft pastels. There are many different techniques for creating the wave, as well as the spray of water above it. We encourage you to explore these resources to take advantage of what other artists have learned.

Step 3: The challenge of this Adventure is to feature a breaking wave in your painting. Any style is acceptable be it realistic or something created from your wild imaginings. The colors, size and type of surface are totally up to you the artist.

Step 4: Send **the photo of your artwork, your comments, and the title and size** of your painting to Kay Gordon (ikaygordon364@gmail.com) by **May 25th at 6 PM**.

Step 5: Remember, this deadline is firm and nothing can be posted that is received after 6 PM on **May 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 and then sharing the results of our learning with each other.

ON YOUR MARK, HOLD YOUR NOSE, AND JUMP IN THE WATER!

Anne Allen, Hendersonville

"The Great Wave of Kanagawa," after Katsushika Hokusai



by Anne Allen

9 x 12 inches

Pastel on 400-grit UArt sand-
ed pastel paper

HAIKU

A wild sea -
stretching to Sado Isle
The Milky Way.

Loving traditional Japanese art and culture, I decided to paint a master copy of the famous cresting wave by Hokusai. My goal was to employ my observation skills and use pastel pencils to achieve areas of greater detail in my artwork.

The original woodblock print was made between 1830 - 1833 during the flowering Edo period in Japan. A print of "The Great Wave" is in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and measures 10 x15 inches.

Wave paintings were well-loved in Japan and then Europe in the nineteenth century. "The Great Wave" is noted to be one of the sources of inspiration for the Impressionists.

Often paired with poetry, the woodblock print is remembered in a short Japanese poem by master Japanese poet, Basho.

Katsushika Hokusai, "The Great Wave off Kanagawa" (1830-1833), woodblock print.



Kathy Amspacher, Hendersonville

My painting this month is "Splash Dance" on 9x12 sanded paper using lots of different brand pastels. No underpainting and lightly drawn in pencil.

I was fearful of the subject because I never drew a wave in the entire 20 years I lived by water and beaches. How could I even begin to capture nature's canvas?

I came across this photo I took at the Myrtle Beach State Park. The young man in dreadlocks caught a full wave. I love to swim in the ocean and I knew what he was experiencing at that moment. He just laughed out loud like a child, a sweet moment to watch!



Splash Dance
9 x 12



Catharin McCarthy Banta, Hendersonville



The Sea
9 x 12

Jane Best, Morganton

Small Craft Advisory

9 x 12



This pastel painting is based on a photo I took a few years ago near the end of a very windy day on Lake of the Woods, Ontario.

This is my first attempt at painting waves but I did enjoy this challenge and will certainly try to find more waves to paint. Thanks!

Beryl Bradley, Brevard, NC

This was a really tough challenge, but a good one! This is on Art Spectrum Colorfix Rose Grey 9x12 paper.

I still have more work to do to complete it and have enjoyed the challenge. It certainly got me out of my comfort zone. Thank you!



Making Waves

9 x 12

Deborah Chase, Hendersonville

The Ewer

8 x 10



I was visiting my mother last week and got this antique pitcher of my grandmother's, so it was on my mind.

I looked through my personal reference photos and apparently had none of waves breaking, just beautiful calm sunsets on the beach.

I utilized a stock photo off the computer and made up my own idea using a portion of the reference material.

This is a study that will be used on a larger more complete composition.

Nancy Clausen, Swannanoa



untitled

9 x 12

This is still a work in progress, but didn't think I'd have more time today to work on it.

I tried to find a photo that depicted this scene, but couldn't find it. I did, however, find a photo of the same rock. I then researched wherever I could on the internet to see how the breaker over the rock would look. I still have more work to do, but think it's a good start. The painting is done on a 9 x 12 piece of Art Spectrum I found in looking for my photo. It is a dark green so I didn't use an underpainting. I used a variety of pastels, some Rembrandt, Unison, Sennelier and Great American.

I don't have a name for it right now, so I guess it's untitled for now.

I have really enjoyed doing these Adventures. They have made me try things I didn't think I could ever do, but found out with some work, yes I can. I read something not long ago from an artist that was in a work shop. She apparently told the instructor that she didn't do trees only animals. The instructor replied, "You are an artist aren't you?" I can relate as I have a tendency to stay in a comfort zone because I know that it works. I can say I'm glad I've gotten out of it and am trying new things and enjoying it.

Diane de Grasse, Black Mountain

Thanks for another challenge!

Since there are no “breakers” nearby, I went to online photos for a reference.

I used a half sheet of grey Mi-Teintes pastel paper and a variety of mostly soft pastels.

I really enjoyed this assignment and had fun putting action into the scene.

Breakers

8 x 10



Jennifer Donolo, Burlington, ON, Canada

Please find my submission for Adventure AAAA-5 “Breakers” attached. Thank you for this very challenging Adventure! It was a very good exercise in composition, value and colour! Thank you!

Pastel on paper (Sennelier La Carte light grey)

I used Nupastels and various soft pastels.

Florida on the Beach 2022 9.5 x 12.5



Reference photo

Terrilynn Dubreuil, Asheville

Here's my breakers ..

One I did a while ago playing around and another today.

Trying to catch the solid conical or cylindrical form of the wave is interesting while also trying to capture its translucence and how the light refracts lighter and usually greener through the peak as it is about to crest and crash. And all those surface foamy strings that glide up over the face at odd angles.

Waves MAY seem easy at first but once an artist starts studying them, one discovers how truly complex they are.



Wave

8 x 10

Wave 2

6 x 9



Will Evans, Fairview

Attached pls find my 9x12 pastel on Art Spectrum ColorFix
“blue haze”.

Titled: “tidal pool”

I used a workable fixative to lock in the darks of the rocks
since Art Spectrum doesn't have much tooth, then built up
the mid tones. The spray was the easy part, the rocks, as
always were the challenge.



Tidal Pool

9 x 12



Gale warnings along the Maine coast last September alerted us to weather conditions that provided some wonderful photo-ops. My reference for this painting was one of MANY that I took that day. The breakers along the Schoodic shore were well over 6 feet high, and dramatic!

I made a quick sketch on leaf green dark Art Spectrum original paper with a white charcoal pencil, using the photo on my iPad as a guide. I used a variety of pastel brands, including Unison, Creatacolor, PanPastels (for the softer spray), Terry Ludwig, Sennelier, and then Diane Townsend for the intense foam of the wave.



MaryAnn Grib, Gray, TN

Daytona Waves 6 x 9



I will start by saying, I have a new found respect for artists who paint ocean waves.

I studied them for a bit of time and then decided to work from a personal photo of some rough surf at Daytona Beach.

I decided to be straight forward with this project being as I had never attempted to paint waves in detail. This was much more difficult than I expected as is evidenced in my 6x9 piece "Daytona Waves".

What I learned from this challenge is that I will not be defeated by this subject matter.

Haha. I see many wave studies in my future.

Alec Hall, Hendersonville

I grew up on the Massachusetts coast about 20 miles south of Boston.

When I was a boy, hot, summer days were often spent at the beach, either near my home in Weymouth or on Cape Cod.

The family of my best friend had a cottage in Chatham, MA and I would be invited to spend a weekend with them each summer. This scene harkens back to those carefree summer days on the Cape.



Chatham Breakers

11 x 14

Pastelbord

Susan Harkins, Vilas, NC



Big Blue

8 x 10

Another fun Art Adventure! I did find it a challenge to express the movement and transparency of waves, there's a lot going on!

While watching YouTube videos I stumbled across one on using canvas board for pastel and decided to experiment. After two coats of clear gesso I did an alcohol wash over hard pastels, the next couple layers had to be rubbed in to adhere. The board did start breaking down in a few spots,

i'd like to try this again using a better board and more gesso. I've sprayed on workable fixative and want to go back and add some highlights.

I enjoyed experimenting and look forward to seeing everybody's submissions.

Mona Hearne, Mathews, NC

Uart / Nupastels. Ludwig's

Several years ago I painted an ocean wave- had it framed and gave it to my eldest grandson and his wife. The inset calligraphy read "Even the Winds and the Waves Obey Him."

This painting is inspired by Scripture and the painting I gave my grandson and his wife.



Matthew 8:27—from Memory

8 x 10

Kathy Hutchinson, Rutherfordton, NC

Standing Watch

8 x 10



Title: Standing Watch

8 x 10 on La Carte Pastel card

I worked this painting from a composite of some copyright free photos..

I used a variety of pastels..

Lynn Jackson, Brevard, NC

Enjoying a Wave 9 x 12



I normally do not paint seascapes, but I enjoyed trying to capture the energy of a wave. Lots of colors that I didn't imagine being there.

Makes me want to go back to the beach this summer!

Karen Knaub, Lake Lure

This was a difficult challenge for me and I am not happy with my painting. I spent a lot of time searching my pictures for waves and couldn't find any. So this is from my head.

I watched demos from many artists and still couldn't get a decent result. This was also my 2nd painting I did for this challenge. All in all I learned from this and will keep practicing.

Thank you for another great challenge.

No title
10 x 10



Cindy Lidd, Garner, NC

Alluring Wave

8 x 10



Attached is my 8x12 painting "Alluring Wave", on UART 600; this is from a vacation photo while in Hawaii many years ago.

Thanks for the challenge.

Margaret V Lyn-Soroken, Black Mountain

Nor-fiord Wave

6 x 11



Title: Nor—fiord wave

Size: 6x11

Medium: pastels on uart 400

I wanted to use a photo I took instead of copying a wave. This study of waves..it's movement, colors, shadows was a challenging first attempt. Thumbnail was lighter but hope it conveys the darker Nordic landscape.

Meryl Meyer, Weaverville

Blue Breakers
9 x 12 on UART 400



I really enjoyed this challenge. I had not yet painted Ocean Waves. I used a free photo from the link you provided for Pixabay.com.

I painted an alcohol wash under painting using 3 values of nu pastel violets. This is a study and unfinished.

I asked Alexa to play ocean waves so while I painted I enjoyed the sounds of the waves breaking, and hitting the surf which helped me get into the ocean zone.

I used Unison turquoises and Terry Ludwig soft pastels. There are beautiful blues and greens and violets that I saw and painted into the waves. I added swirls and foam using Diane Townsend Whites, Terry Ludwig light pink white and light blue white and nu pastel white.

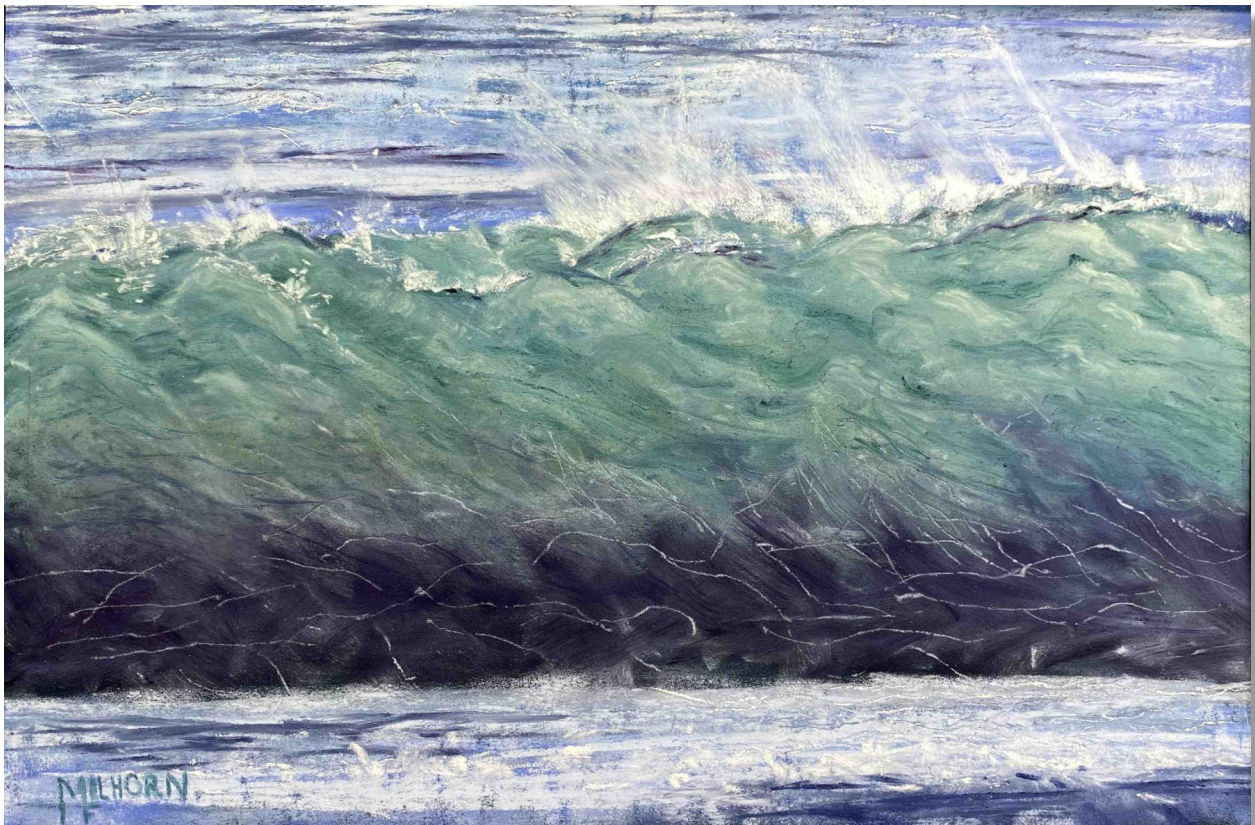
Thank you for this challenge. I learned a lot and would like to paint waves in the future.

Frankie Milhorn, Kingsport, TN

I had to search some sites for free photos for this challenge. I found a beautiful photo on a facebook site that I used. The site is a private site called Free Reference Photos for Artists. Photo Credit goes to photographer Denise McQuillan. The photo was taken off of the California Coast.

I have never painted a pastel ocean water scene before, so this was indeed, a challenge for me. I used Pastel Mat and assorted pastels. I'm sure I will continue to work this piece as time goes on, but it has been a fun work in progress for me :). I tried to explore a little more mark making in this one.

Rolling Over
7 x 10.5



Gary Rupp, Black Mountain, NC



On the Rocks
10 x 10

These are the stages of my wave painting.

The first image is a gauche underpainting with the basic wave shape created with a paper towel.

The second image is laying down for basic values dark to light.

The third is the wave so far. Great fun.

Done from a memory of the Maine coast.



Andrea Stutesman, Black Mountain



Wave in the Storm

12 x 16

Title: Wave in the Storm

Size: 16" x 12" UArt paper

Pastels: Terry Ludwig, Richeson, and Sennilier

These challenges keep pushing me and I really appreciate it. This is my first wave.

I watched some videos and tried to find a picture that would push me to do something different. I'm still working on loosening up and blending less.

I may keep working on this one and try more waves.

Mary Hertler Tallman, Jackson, MI

The attached photograph of "Florida Poetry - Shipwreck Beach - IX" is a 16"x 20" painting I created in my studio from a plein air study I did on location. While on vacation in southern Florida, I had the opportunity to visit one of the reefs near Palm Beach and witness the majestic power of the Atlantic Ocean as the waves crashed against the rocky shore.

I typically use white UArt 400 and use a hard pastel to create an underpainting all set with alcohol to tone the paper surface. I draw my composition with a contrasting watercolor pencil before I begin painting.

Florida Poetry—Shipwreck Beach—IX 16 X 20



Ruth Whitaker, Newnan , GA

"Gloomy Day at Myrtle Beach "

8x10 on Uart 500lb. paper. Assorted hard and soft pastels.

Reference photo taken at Myrtle Beach a few years ago in April.



Gloomy Day at Myrtle Beach 8 x 10

Sawyer Bear Whitemiller, Cape Coral, FL

When I was about 10 years old, we visited this beach on Sanibel Island in Florida. I am very surprised that since we live in Florida, we do not have a lot of beach photos. This photo was my favorite of them all. I don't remember much, but the waves were beautiful.

For this painting I took myself out, and just painted the beach and waves. I have never painted waves before, and this was fun and new.



Sanibel Island

Sawyer Bear Whitemiller



*Where the Crabs Dance,
and the Sandpipers Party*

7.5 x 9.5

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