



The following 23 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 AAAA-6: “Planes, Trains & Automobiles”

Welcome artists to the sixth and final challenge of the Adventure Series AAAA. There is a long history in art of all things industrial and/or mechanical and that is the focus of this final challenge. Think of the paintings, for example, you have seen with cars, trains, ships, tractors, and the ever popular sail boats. But in this challenge we want you to also consider tools, gears, farm implements, blast furnaces, fire hydrants, etc. The options are limitless! See the illustrations below for more inspiration.

**Step 1:** Choose an industrial/mechanical subject that intrigues you for its form, colors and/or setting. You can decide to place it in a landscape, seascape or a still life.

**Step 2:** Do your painting in any style, size or color palette you desire. Remember, we are not asking for a masterpiece, but want you to take this opportunity to explore, experiment and most of all enjoy the process.

**Step 3:** Take a photo of your painting and send it along with any comments you want to share about your experience. For instance, did you find inspiration in manmade forms or did this challenge convince you to paint only natural subjects? Did you like trying to take a scene or object many would consider mundane or even ugly and turn it into something beautiful?

**Step 4:** Send a photo of your artwork **with the title and size along with your remarks** to Kay Gordon ([jkaygordon364@gmail.com](mailto:jkaygordon364@gmail.com)) by **June 22nd by 6:00PM.**

**Step 5:** Remember, this deadline is firm and nothing can be posted that is received after 6:00PM on June 22nd. NOTE: Your painting does not need to be in its finished form. This adventure is to encourage all of us in exploring new methods, new subject matter and new ways of seeing. As we do this, we have the opportunity to share our work and our insights with each other allowing all of us to grow in our love and passion for all things pastel.

ON YOUR MARK; GET SET; GO INDUSTRIAL!



**ENJOY THE MANY  
APPROACHES  
TO THIS CHALLENGE!**



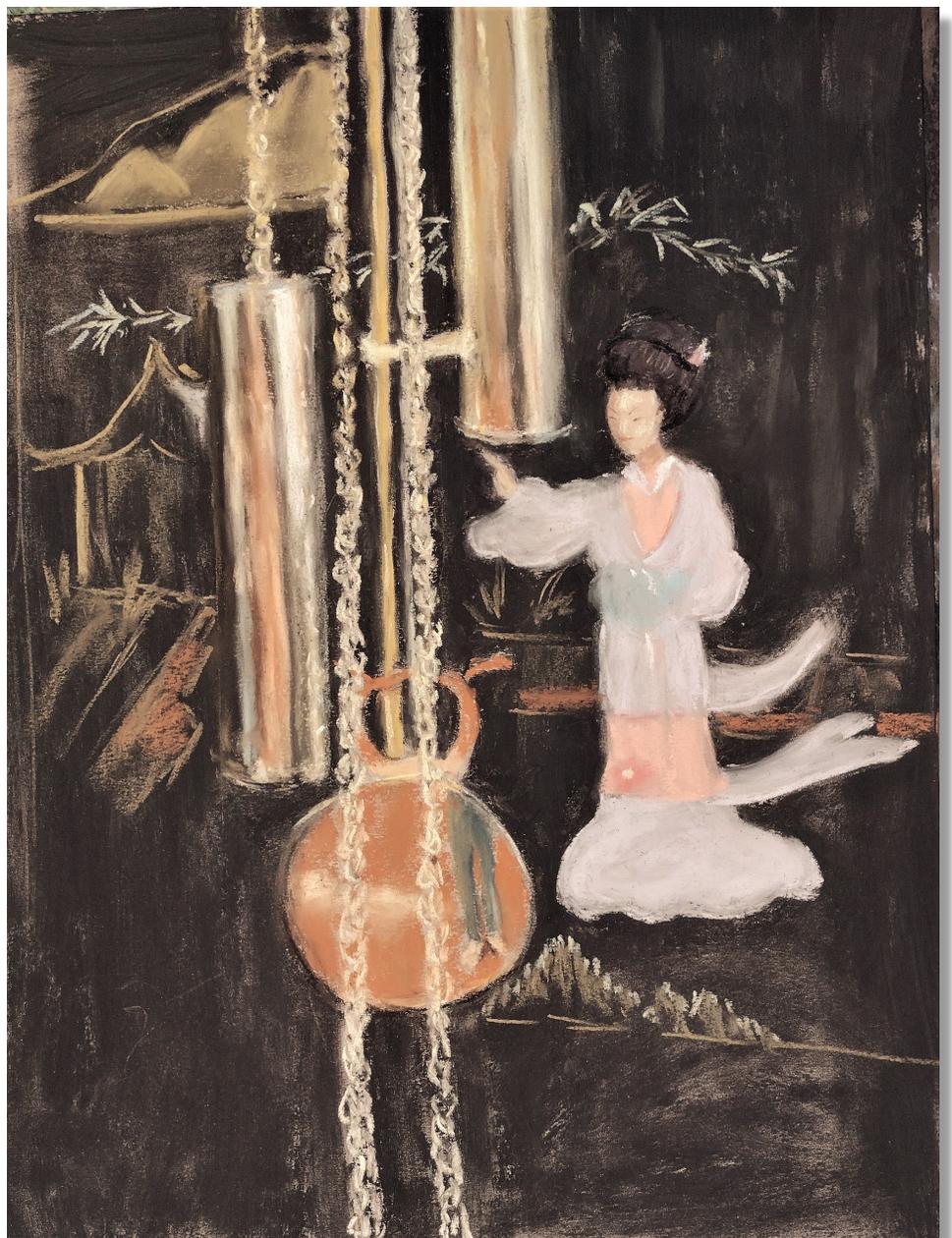
## Kathy Amspacher, Hendersonville

I took a picture of my grandmother clock innards. It was a gift from my husband many years ago. I am not a draftsman by any means and found this a real struggle. But...I used a radiograph lead pencil with Canson unsanded paper in grey. I used this idea from Artists Magazine, an article on lead drawings tinted with pastel. For this one, I chose canson so I wouldn't wear my lead down on sanded paper.

**TeeHee...check out the pendulum closely! Fun!**

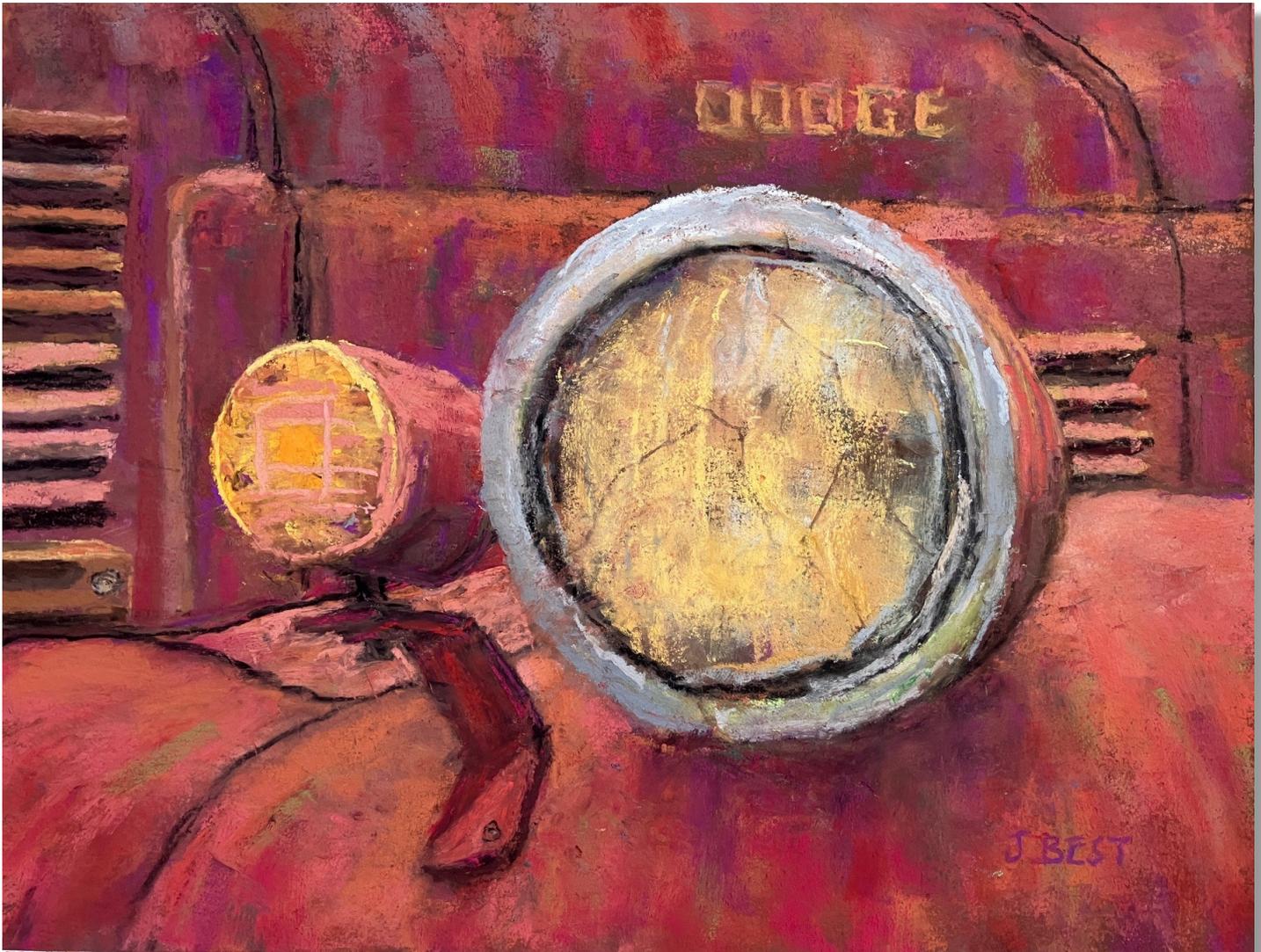
Thanks again for this adventure.

Lead, MiTientes Canson grey tone



*Swinging the Gears*  
16 x 12

Jane Best, Morganton



*Old Faithful*

9 x 12

"Old Faithful" 12x9 pastel on burnt umber art spectrum pastel paper.

I photographed the old truck beside a barn in Watauga County and could hardly wait to paint it.

I enjoyed this interesting challenge. Thanks.

**Beryl Bradley, Brevard**



*Hanging Around*

16 x 12

One of my dear friends has a group of buoys he's collected and has hanging on his patio. I've always enjoyed seeing them so painted this for him.

12x16 premier 400 sanded paper

**Chris Carroll, New Bern, NC**

My setting is made up of parts of other pictures. Love this little guy tractor. I call this “Lunch Break”. I grew up in the country in Ohio, and have always been fascinated by all the different sizes, shapes and colors of tractors.

The paper is Pastelmat, 12 x 15.5 and I used PanPastels for the underpainting. I love PanPastels for this purpose, and have just started using them for other ideas. I also used Unison, T. Ludwig and Sennelier Soft Pastels.

Thanks for this opportunity.



*Lunch Break*

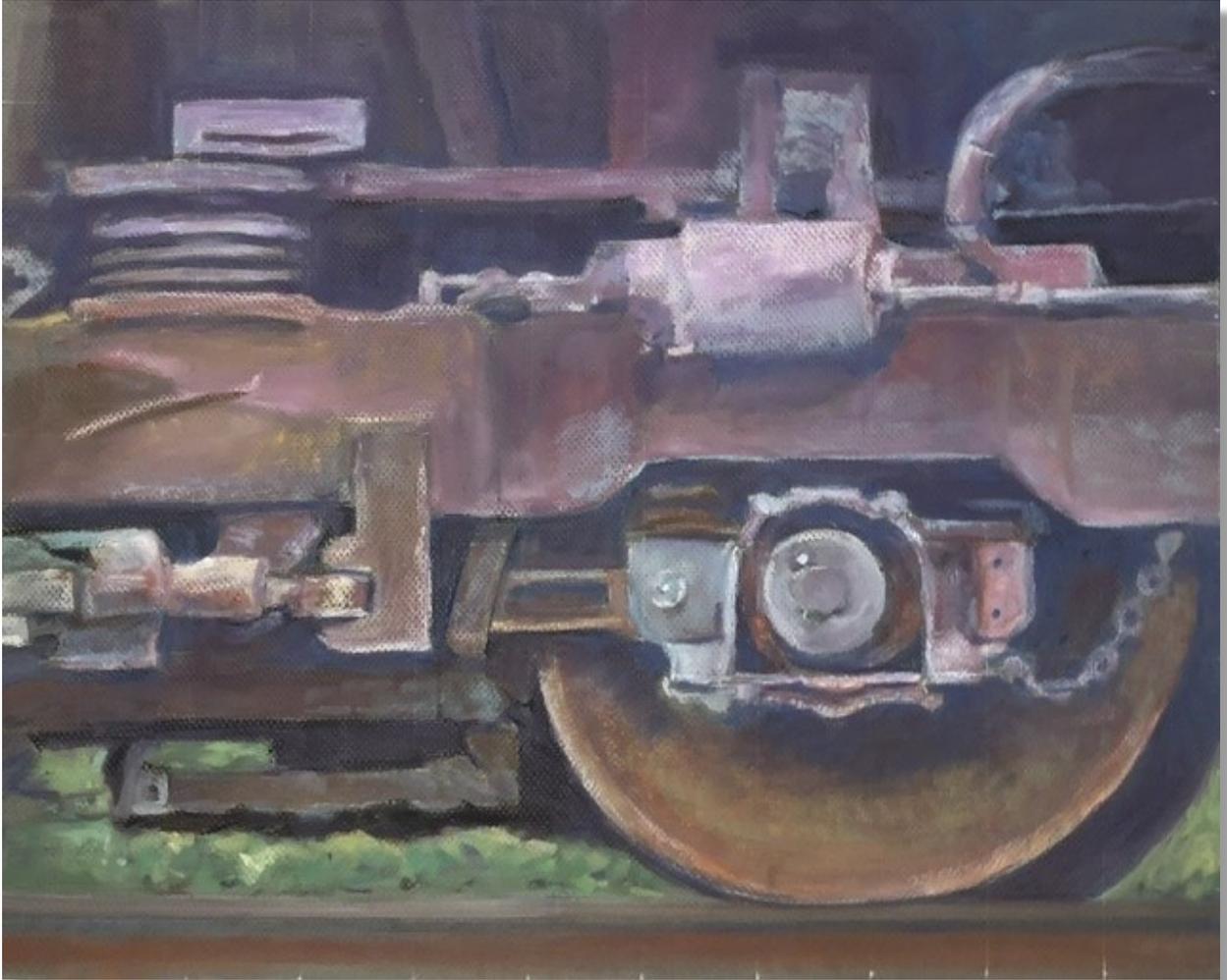
*12 x 15.5*



**Deborah Chase, Rutherfordton, NC**

*Untitled*

*16 x 22*



I made this piece larger than usual because I wanted to see what I could do using only Pan pastels. It is on Strathmore 400 series charcoal grey textured paper, NOT my favorite to work on.

I have really appreciated this last series of adventures and all who have participated. It has kept me involved with my art during buying, selling, moving and refurbishing, (a good reason to get the studio set up). Thank you!

**Nancy Clausen, Swannanoa, NC**

Here is my Industrial piece. I call it Abandoned.

A few years ago I was on my way to Cheap Joes and the Vance Memorial and decided to take some pictures of the buildings in the River Arts District. This one was all by itself. The day was cold and blustery with some snow so I didn't stay long and didn't see any identification.

It's done on Ampersand Bord, 8 x 10, which seemed to work very well. I used a variety of pastels, mainly Faber Castell hard pastels, some Rembrandt, Unison and some others. It was fun and I had another opportunity to try my perspective and doing buildings

*Abandoned 8 x 10*



**Diane de Grasse, Black Mountain**

*If You Build It*

12 x 16



Thanks again for a fine challenge. Out here on “the Farm”, Givens Highland Farms in Black Mountain, we'd usually have bucolic scenes of full trees, pond and expanses of lawn, until the large expansion got under way.

Now we have a daily convoy of dump trucks, dozers and power shovels added to all the greenery.

I liked the orange paint against the green of standing trees, the bright clay color of the earth and of course the lime green worker's shirt.

Next time I'd like to do a city building or a fire truck. It could happen!

Pastel, mostly hard with touches of soft on grey-toned Mi-Teintes paper.

**Jennifer Donolo**, Burlington, ON, Canada

*Iron Bolt*  
2022

Pastel on paper  
(Colourfix Pastel paper, green leaf dark)  
12 x 17.5 inches



I used Nupastels and Rembrandt hard pastels, and various soft pastels including Richeson, Unison, Terry Ludwig, Diane Townsend.

I have been intrigued by this subject for a long time. The submitted painting explores the theme of the past revisiting the present. The painting is of the remnants of a commercial ship's wreckage from the 1800s. Over time the white oak and iron ship's wreckage has actually become part of the shore in Lake Ontario. The wreckage briefly reveals itself on the Hamilton beach every now and then subject to water levels and the elements, bringing the past into the present. The pieces emerge and disappear into the beach as nature determines so are not always present. My painting is a close-cropped vignette of one of these scenes, reflecting man meeting the forces of nature—compositions of still life objects of oak, iron, rusty bolts and spikes, remnants of something once whole, now keeping company with nature's stones, moss, fish, leaves and water—ephemeral scenes I have captured with my pastels and oils.

Who built the ship? What happened to it? Who were the people who worked on it? So many questions! What is even more remarkable is that the bottom of the hull of the ship is still intact laying in its sandy, stony and watery shoreline!

Thank you for this challenging adventure!

**Will Evans, Fairview**

*First Wheels*

8 x 11



I selected this iconic image since it's perhaps where we all started, first being pulled about, then pulling the wagon filled with various treasures. Maybe it's now relegated to gardening chores or like this for sale in a nearby junk store. But it most likely was an important part of all of our early lives.

The pastel is 8x11, on Uart 400. Blocked in with hard pastels, washed in the local colors with alcohol, then finished with a variety of soft pastels, highlighted with a white pastel pencil.

**MaryAnn Grib, Gray, TN**

I almost forgot about the time zone difference between us. Here's my unfinished piece for the current challenge.

I took a photo of this really cool old truck at UTs botanical gardens and I've wanted to paint it for awhile now so this challenge gave me the reason to. I still have some work to do on it. It's on a 7x7 prepared (clear gesso) mat board. Calling it "Weathered Well"

*Weathered Well*

7x7



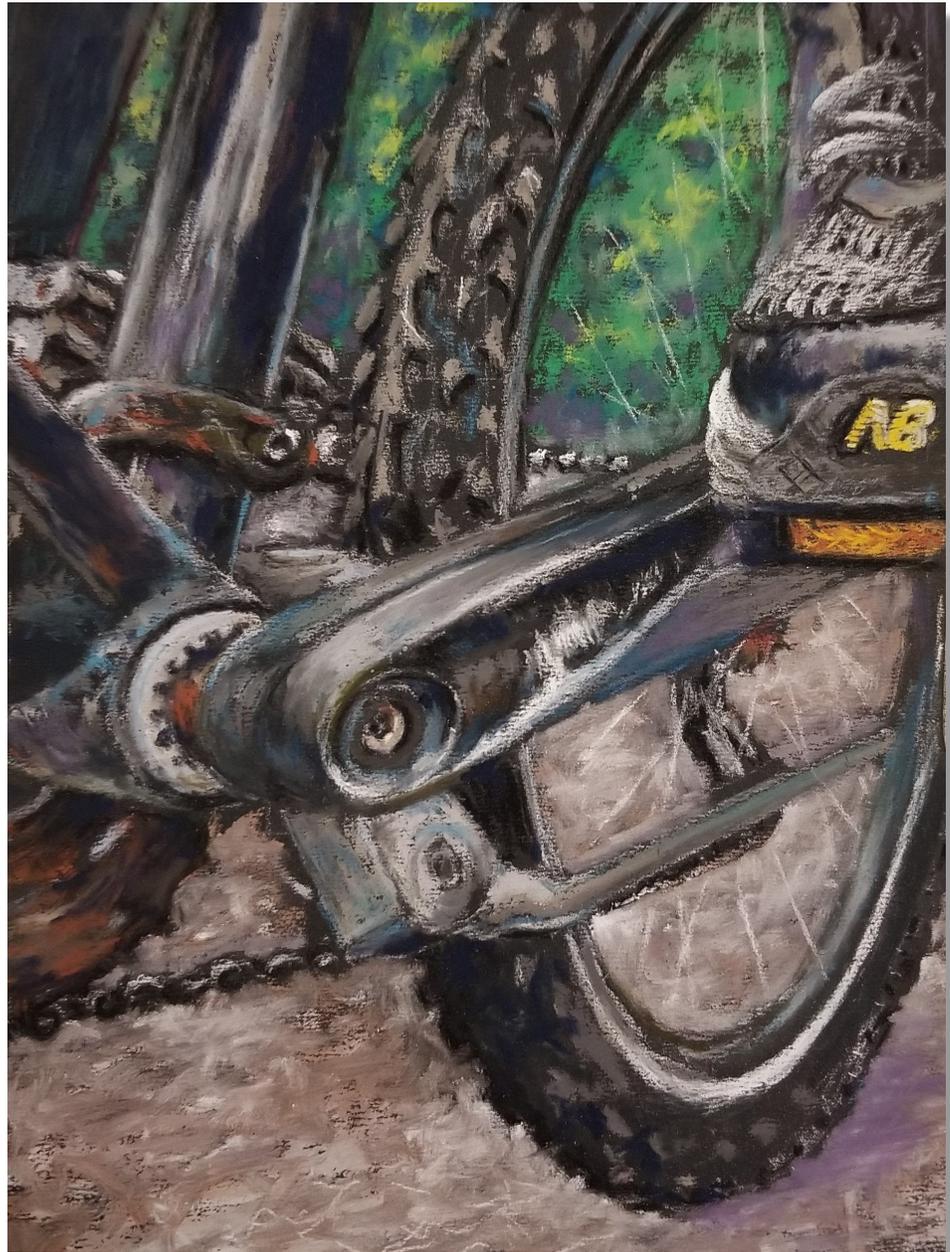
## J Kay Gordon, Weaverville

This was my husband's shoe (his foot was in it). He was patiently waiting for our ride on Saturday. Well, maybe "patiently waiting" is the wrong observation.

He was balancing himself holding onto our truck while I took various "views" of his bike/foot/chain/gears/etc. so that I would have plenty of choices for this Adventure. (So, the "New Balance" title was about more than his shoe brand!)

I painted in my travel "studio" ...aka our dining table in our trailer...with my reference photo next to me on my iPad.

I sketched with white charcoal on black Uart 800, using pastel pencils and Creatacolor pastels first, and brightening with some much softer Sen-neliers.



*New Balance* 8 x 6

*Hitching Up the Plow*

4 x 6



Surface: UART 500

Pastels: Carb-Othello Pastel Pencils; Rembrandt Pastels

I was in the process of composing my next painting when this month's Challenge arrived. I had decided to do a team of draft horses plowing a field; however, the plow was only partially visible because the horses were the main subject of the painting. So I flipped through my reference photos and did this color study of a farmer attaching a single bottom plow to his team, which puts the plow in full view. However, I really should have done it bigger... 4" x 6" doesn't allow for much detail. :(

Thanks for another fun Challenge!

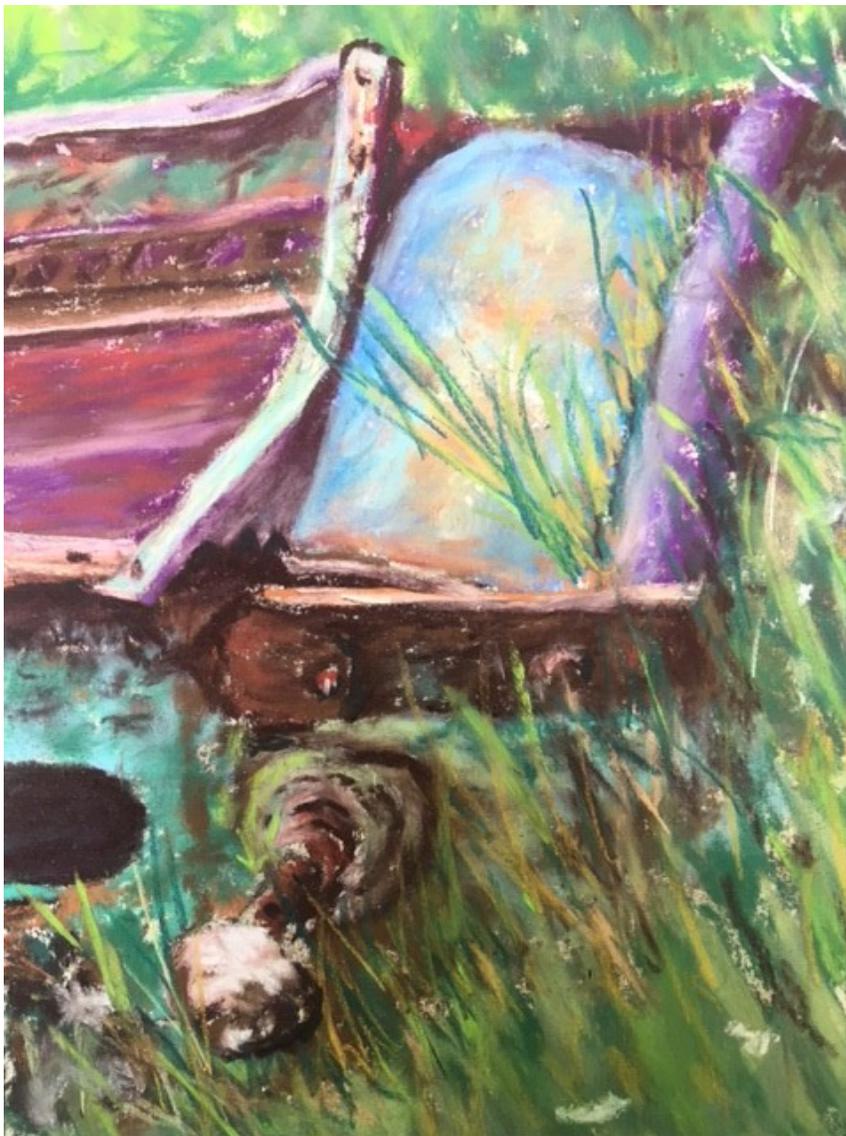
**Susan Harkins, Vilas, NC**

I'm currently traveling and while at Cacapon State Park I discovered this old conveyor belt at the horse stables. I edited the photo to focus in on the wonderful colors, textures and shapes to creat this composition.

I used UArt 400, Newpastels and pastel pencils.

I really enjoyed doing this painting, and look forward to using the many photos taken through the countryside of West Virginia and Pennsylvania of various mechanical/farm/industrial equipment.

Thanks for this great adventure and opening my eyes to new subjects!



*Rusty Conveyor*

5 x 6

**Mona Hearne, Mathews, NC**

*Plumb-line 6 x 3*

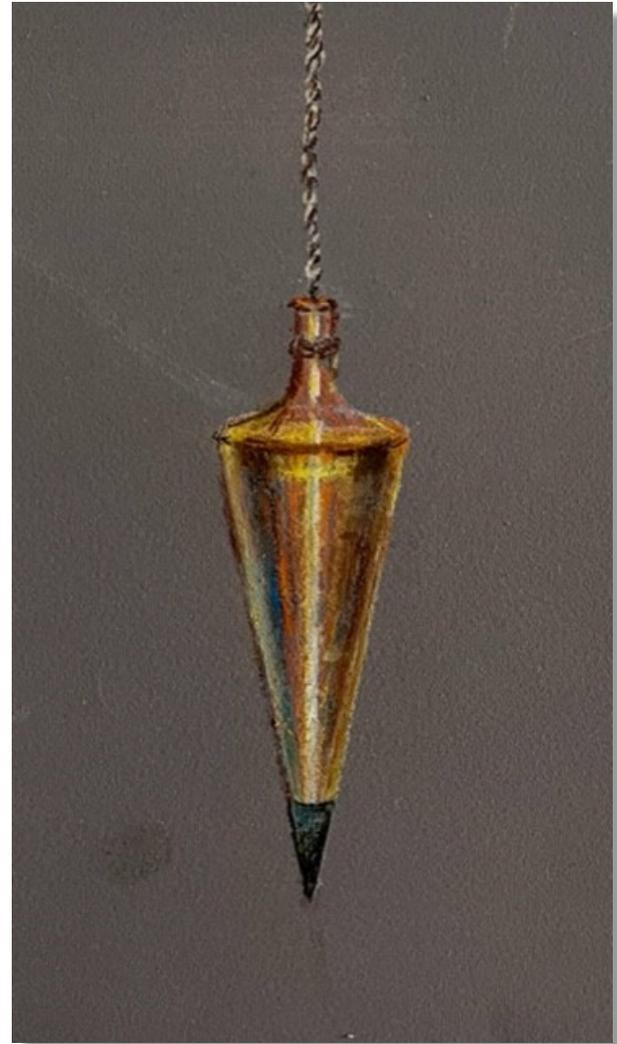


Gioconda Soft Pastel Pencils on Art Spectrum

The photo is a plumb-line my husband used when he was a construction superintendent. Whether he was erecting a wall, or installing an engine he made sure everything was in plumb/straight.

God says His word is a plumb-line, in other words His word cuts life straight. Notice the cross.

*Pixels 10 x 8*



The 2nd image photo is a shot I took when my TV was acting up-some type of electrical interference; pixelating image is interesting. The pixelating inspired my painting. Soft pastels on UArt.





*Cheers!* 9 x 12

I've always been fascinated with the design of a corkscrew. This tool certainly comes in handy when winding down after a long day of painting!!

Enjoyed thinking about all the possibilities for this adventure!

I sprayed the first coat of pastels so that I could apply the second layer without the colors mixing. I like how it gave it dimension.

Thanks for the challenge.

**Karen Knaub, Lake Lure**

You girls really do challenge us. I hope there are more coming up. I learn so much by pushing myself out of my comfort zone.

This is on premier paper. An alcohol wash of nupastels. And various soft pastels.

My husband took this pic of his car when it went into the body shop to be painted.



*Cool Car Reno*  
12 x 10

**Cindy Lidd, Garner, NC**

Attached is my pastel painting "Waiting For A Ride"; it is a 9x12 on Uart 400. Thanks!



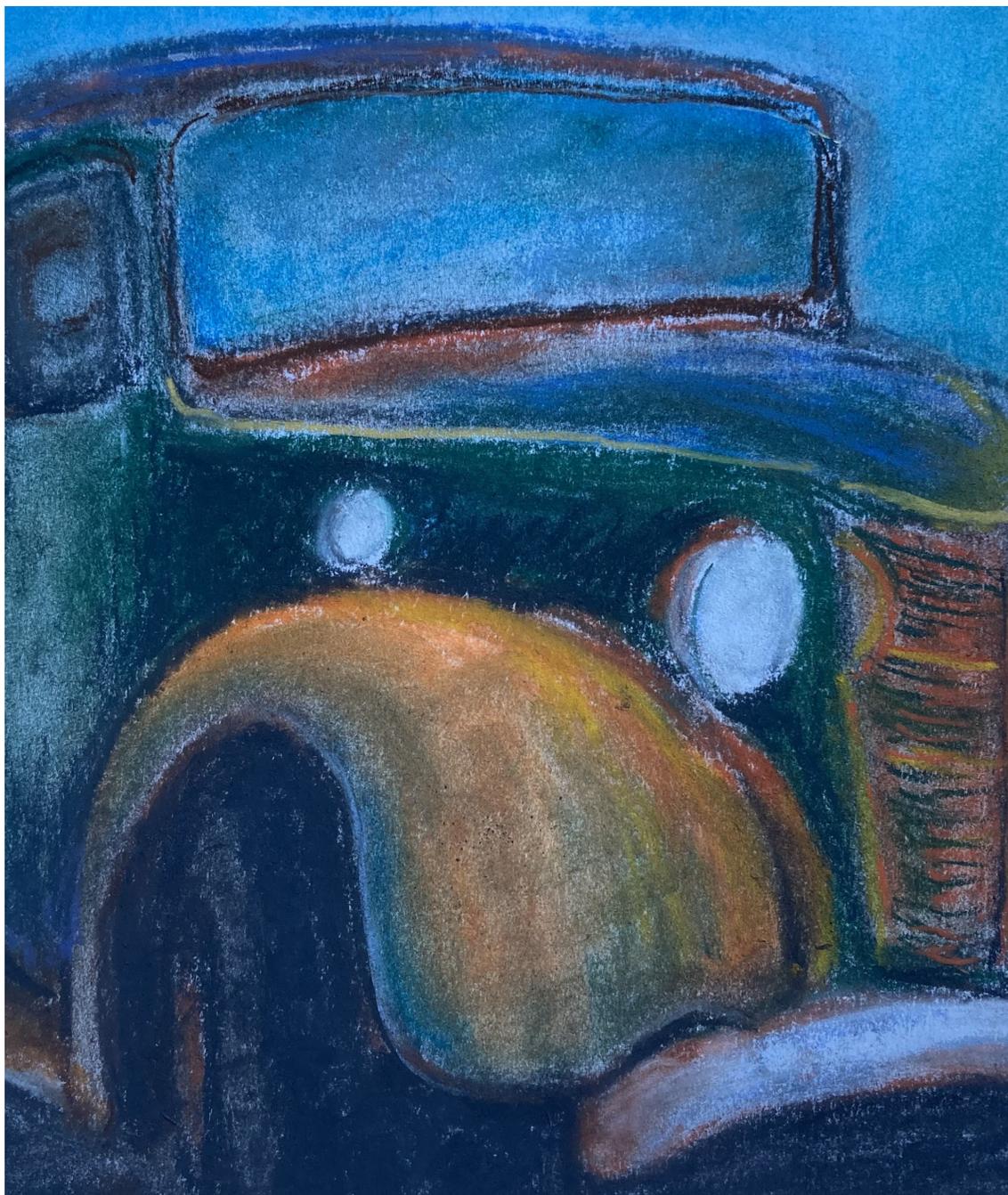
*Waiting for a Ride*

9 x 12

**Margaret V Lyn-Soroken, Black Mountain**

Medium: pastels

Comment: Sketch done from photo of car seen in Mtn Airy...on plain paper I had.



*Mt Airy Car*  
9 1/2 x 7 1/2

## Meryl Meyer, Weaverville

9 x 12 Uart 400

Assorted hard pastels and soft pastels

I must admit I was not that initially inspired . I even went around my neighborhood looking for something that would grab me. There was an old railroad yard, and fire hydrants, and I felt "Meh." I looked through my photos and found a photo of an old trashed jeep that I had seen on the side of a road in Madison County. What I liked about it was there were weedy flowers growing out of the back of it. I used repurposed mounted U Art paper that I had washed down with alcohol. I thought it would lend something to the background. It contributed to the theme "repurposed." The truck body was interesting with the indentations, mud, and white wash. The patina on the shed was also interesting to paint. Old forgotten things can gain a new purpose.



*Repurposed*

9 x 12



Frankie Milhorn, Kingsport, TN

*Castaway*

9 x 12



Remarks - This is from a scene I see as I walk every day. I love the play of light on the blue boat, and I have often wondered what stories that boat could tell, if only it could actually tell. The color and light is what always gets me. Still looks like it has life left in it, doesn't it?

**Sparky Nelson, Barnstable, MA**

No longer in use, this decrepit caboose sits close to the rails that carry its new, modern replacement. Clearly it gave miles and miles of clackitty-clacking service in its day!



*End of the Line*  
14 x 11

## Andrea Stutesman, Black Mountain

Pastels: Multiple soft and NuPastels

Paper: UArt 12" x 9"

I loved this challenge.

Just two weeks ago, I took this picture in Virginia. I was driving with my daughter and grandson and asked her to stop so I could take pictures of the old truck. I love the look of old vehicles. The sign in the back was just a bonus.

I attached the original photo.



*This Way* 12 x 9

Ruth Whitaker, Newnan, GA

*Sun and Wind* 8 x 10



I wanted to paint a wind turbine from my trip out west in 2021, but couldn't find the one I wanted.

So used a photo with permission from Alan Marsh. This is what he said about his photo. " Sun setting over the Irish Sea. Taken from Parbold Hill, Lancashire. Buildings are in Black Pool, turbines are off shore from Barrow in Funes. "

I really don't normally paint much in the way of mechanical/industrial. I did feel that wind turbines represent the new mechanical/industrial of our future.

I used the Sennelier pastel, Paris Collection on Uart 400

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