

## APS Adventures in Pastel B-1: “Me and My (Cast) Shadow ”

Welcome to our NEW Adventure Series B. This is the first Adventure in that series, and it is called “Me and My (Cast) Shadow.” In this adventure, the challenge will be to use shadows cast by one or more objects as the focus of the design of your painting.

There are two basic uses of shadows in a painting, Form Shadows and Cast Shadows. Form shadows (shading on the object) are used to give the illusion of dimension to the object (so that an apple will appear to be round). Cast shadows “are the shadowed area on adjacent surfaces where direct light is blocked by the form.” (quote from Artist Network)

In this Adventure, we will emphasize Cast Shadows. If you “Google,” “shadows in artwork,” you will find excellent discussions and demo videos of the principles involved. You will learn that important factors include the angle, colors and intensity of the light source (or multiple light sources). You will find that you need to take into account the surface your shadow is projected on, and the quality of the edges of your shadow.

**Step 1:** Take some time to study the principles of shadow portrayal. Also, look at other paintings and see what other artists have done. (See the illustrations below for inspiration.)

**Step 2:** Instead of focusing on an object in your painting, feature the shadow it casts. 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 3:** Send **the photo of your artwork, your comments, and the title and size** of your painting to Kay Gordon ([jkaygordon364@gmail.com](mailto:jkaygordon364@gmail.com)) by **July 27th** at 6 PM.

**Step 4:** Remember, this deadline is firm and nothing can be posted that is received after 6 PM on **July 27<sup>th</sup>**. 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 ideas and techniques using pastels and then sharing the results with each other.

**GET READY, GET SET...CHASE YOUR SHADOW**

**Here are examples of how some artists have used Cast Shadows:**

*(If you haven't already recognized the inspiration for this Adventure...it was the Demo and artwork of Clarence Porter at the APS 2022 May Member Meeting!)*



Clarence Porter,  
*The Reaching No. 6*



Clarence Porter,  
*The Flower and the Shadows No. 4*



John Singer Sargent,  
*Corfu: Lights and Shadows*



Investigate the Proto-surrealist paintings of  
Giorgio de Chirico



cast shadows used in the artwork of Emile Friant



Edward Hopper, *Morning Sun*