

The following 29 artists, who are members of the Appalachian Pastel Society, participated in this virtual group activity. The artwork they created is shared here.

APS Adventures in Pastel B-3: “The Big Apple ”

Welcome to our third Adventure in Series “B”. This month’s challenge is to paint an urban scene. Cityscapes are definitely not as popular as landscape paintings, but many artists have found they can be exciting, vibrant and full of energy! Of course, manmade structures offer some unique differences in contrast to the natural world and this Adventure gives us the opportunity to explore and experiment with those differences.

Please don’t let the title of this Adventure intimidate you into thinking you need to paint some aspect of New York City. We are looking for an urban setting, but this can be anything from a large city to a small town. (See the illustrations below for some inspiration from other pastelists.)

Step 1: In this Adventure, you are free to select any surface, any size and the color palette you desire. Also, the time of day is up to you, ie, sunrise, sunset, night time or any time in between!

Step 2: As you do your cityscape, be aware how painting a manmade structure presents challenges you don’t experience when painting the natural world, such as rocks, rivers, trees, flowers, etc. Do you find painting manmade structures easier or more difficult than painting the natural world? Tell us why.

Step 3: **Send a photo of your work, and title and size** to Kay Gordon (jkaygordon364@gmail.com) **by September 28th at 6:00 PM. Please include comments** on your experience with painting a cityscape and how you see it being or not being a part of your artwork going forward.

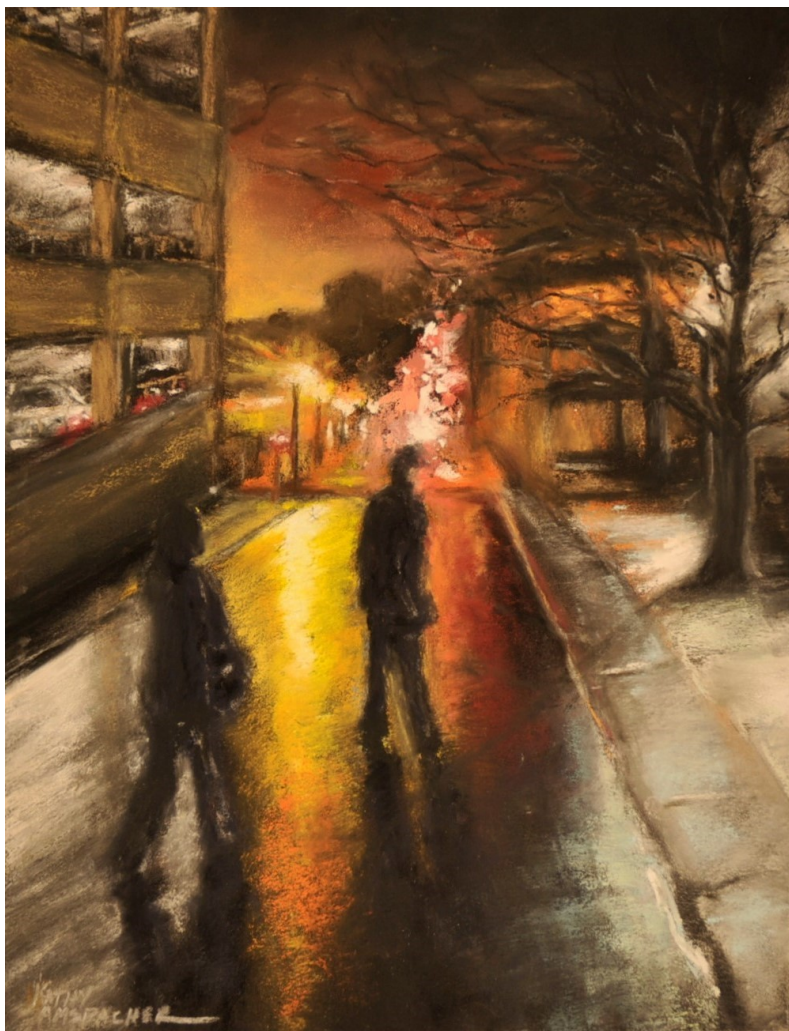
Step 4: Remember, this deadline is firm and nothing can be posted that is received after 6:00 PM on September 28th. Your painting does NOT need to be in its finished form! This Adventure is so we can be painting and learning together. This means exploring, experimenting and sharing new ideas and techniques with your fellow artists.

GET READY, GET SET...GO PEEL THAT APPLE!

Kathy Amspacher, Hendersonville

Asheville Rainy Nite 12 x 9

I've had a photo of my daughter Alecia and husband Bud since 2016. You gave me the nudge it took to finally try to paint it. We were in Asheville on a rainy night walking to the parking garage. I found this a real challenge. I skipped the perspective APS challenge, so I got my workout here instead. The photo is so much better at showing the depth. Figures are not my happy place either but these silhouettes were fun to try. Both are loved subjects which made it easier. Like your cat, Kay. I love landscapes and portraits but still enjoyed the drama I could use here. The door is open to more city scapes. I included one I did from an upside down photo (new perspective) for Karen Marguilis Patreon. I loved that challenge as well! Thanks again Kay and team for this fun stretch.



Black sanded paper.

Assorted soft pastels. TL,
Sennelier, Diane
Townsend etc.

Jane Best, Morganton



Downtown

12 x 9

Hoping to find a paint worthy scene for this challenge, I spent some time photographing local street scenes this past week. I tried to get some candid people shots as well. I really enjoyed this challenge and hadn't realized that city scenes could be such a great source for painting opportunities. Thanks!

Daphne Boder, Pittsboro, NC

On the Sea Wall 5 x 7



I was in St. Tropez last week and took this picture along the sea wall. The painting is a simplified version of the actual photo. I am not very familiar with painting buildings and now I know why: perspective and straight lines are a challenge for me.

This is 5 x 7 and is called "On the Sea Wall."

Regina Burchett, Kannapolis, NC

This was definitely a challenge! I worked on this for the last four days, and ended up changing it many times, adjusting the lighting and details from my source photo of a Philadelphia alleyway. I ended up dialing it back a lot from my original aspirations, but it was a good experience.

Thanks for your work on this challenge!



Just an Alleyway

20 x 16

Karen Chambers, Candler, NC

Old town, Germany.

Painted on Ersta with different pastels, mainly Rembrandt.

There are at least 8-10 layers since I was trying to get the look of old rock and plaster.

Old town, Germany

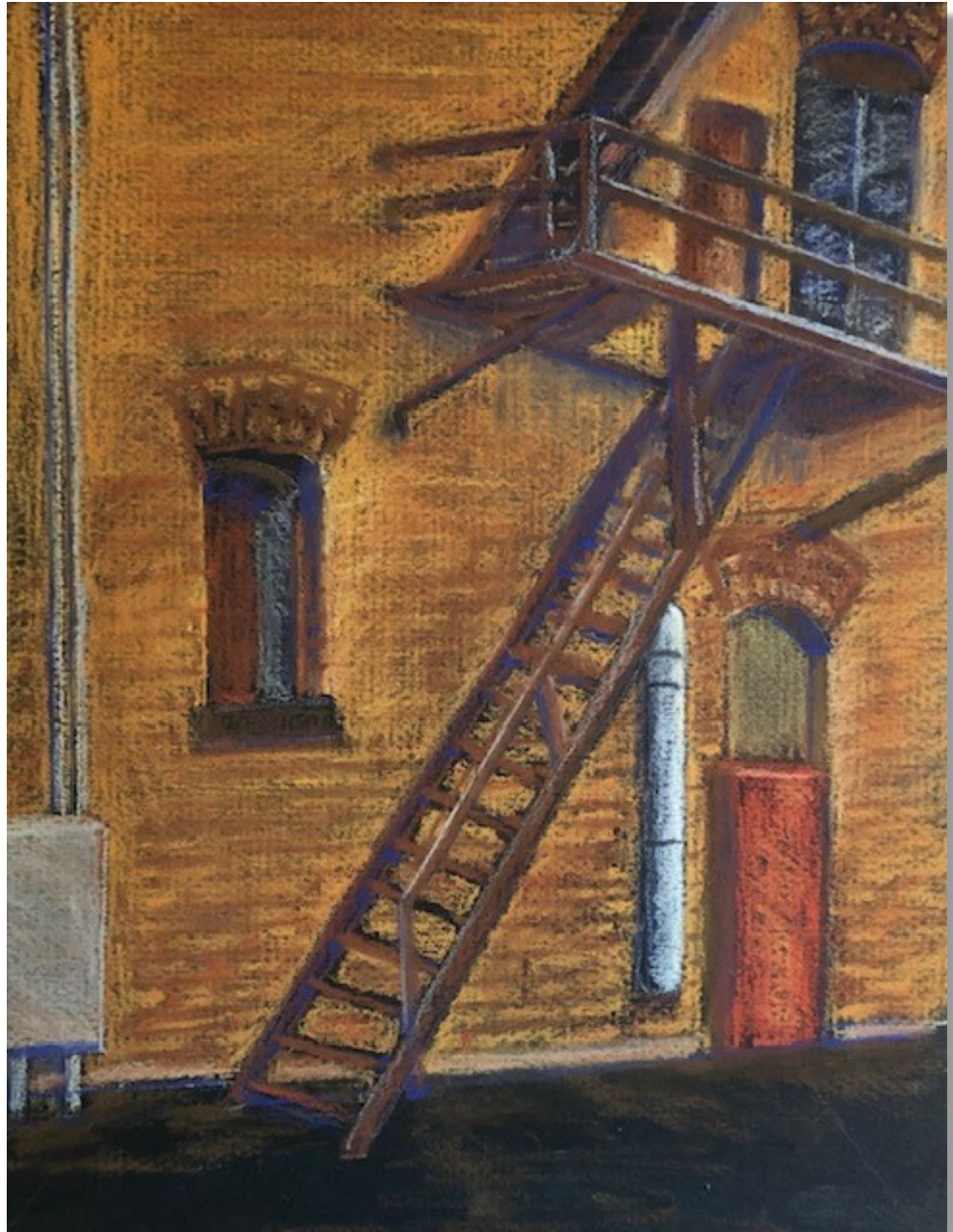
20 x 13



Deborah Chase, Rutherfordton, NC

Grand Escape

10 x 8.5



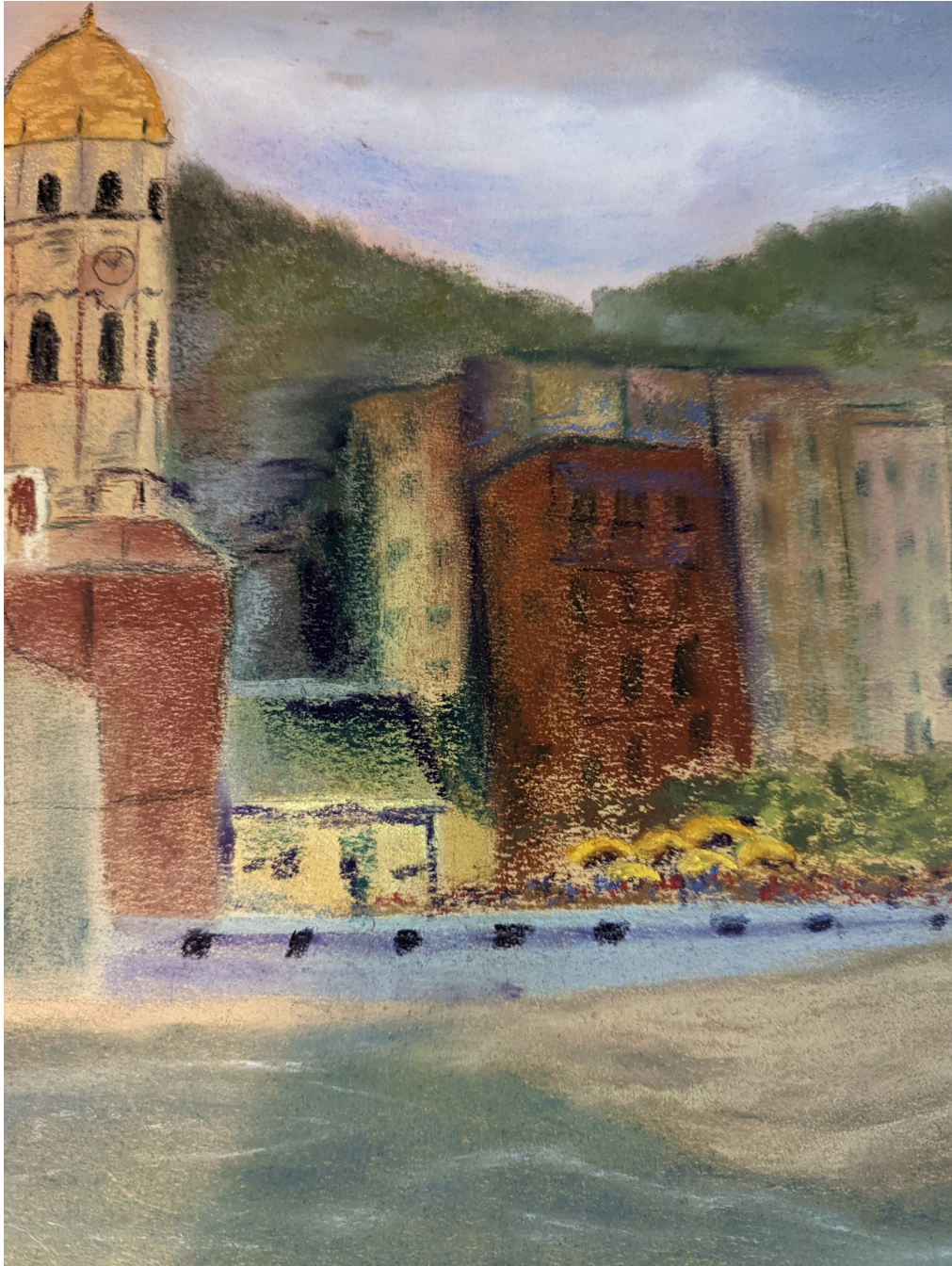
Just my luck I am in "big sky " country surrounded by natural beauty and the Adventure is an urban scene.

This is the alley of the Kalispell Grand hotel. I don't particularly enjoy architecture. I feel compelled to pull out a ruler and get things straight.

I tried my little used Conte pastel pencils because I still had the tin case for packing. They are a longer and bigger pencil than the CarbOrhella and worked ok.

Claire Crook, Hendersonville, NC

Italian Charm 12 x 9



Obviously not finished, but here is an Italian coastal city.

On Canson paper 9x12. Various pastels, but mostly Ludwig.

This was a difficult challenge for me, but I enjoyed it.

Diane de Grasse, Black Mountain

Gardiner, Maine

8.5 x 5.5



Flying to visit family in Maine I had left my cumbersome pastel supplies at home. Wanting to participate in the Adventure series though, I made a quick trip to Michael's. Got their set of 48 "soft pastel sticks" on sale at \$12 and a Canson mixed media pad so I'd be ready when riding with my daughter I took photos for a subject. With a lesson in pigment content and the value of tooth I got this sketch mostly finished in time to visit a favorite aunt.

Diane de Grasse, Black Mountain

Gardiner, Maine 8.5" x 5.5"

Master's Touch pastels on Canson Mixed Media

Jennifer Donolo, Burlington, ON, Canada

Sunshine!
5.75 x 10.75



Please find attached my submission for Adventure B-3: "The Big Apple." Thank you so much for this challenging adventure!

Between the cranes, the telegraph towers and the pot shops, it is hard to find any interesting or redeeming parts of my little town. However, there is Sunshine! Even on a cloudy, blustery day! Thank goodness for Sunshine Doughnuts! A favourite spot for sketching, people watching, drinking coffee and eating doughnuts from the car!

Pastel on Art Spectrum Colourfix paper, deep ultra

Unison soft pastels, NuPastel hard pastels, and various pastel pencils

Terrilynn Dubreuil, Asheville



Stairway to Forever
18 x 12

"Stairway to Forever" (18x12") is a back alleyway to get from the Seine River in Lyon, France, to the hilltop Basilica of Notre-Dame de Fourvière that dominates the old city. Climbing these stairs takes one about half way up that hill .. but is an adventure all in itself. I played with the geometric structures - somewhat out of my normal images of landscapes and other organic views - pushing the color a bit and how the light bounces about from one wall to another and kisses the rims of the stairs and railing. The perspective also was fun to play with and a figure near the top of the stairs gives a sense of scale and distance. Oh, how I miss ma cher Lyon. By the way - I usually would take the funicular UP the hill and walk these steps back down to la Vieille Ville. Climbing them once or twice was more than enough.

(various pastels on hand-pumiced panel)

Will Evans, Fairview

Avignon Rooftops

9 x 12



My submittal, 9x12 on repurposed Uart 400. Underpainted with soft pastels, washed in with alcohol.

J Kay Gordon, Weaverville

This painting was a composite from combining elements of several photos taken in Bar Harbor, Maine.

We're on our way back to North Carolina, so I painted a little each night after driving... in my travel "studio" ...aka our dining table in our trailer...with my reference photo next to me on my iPad...and often with April (cat) on my lap.

I sketched with white charcoal on black Uart 800, using Creatacolor pastels for most of the detail.

Let's Stop for Ice Cream! 6 x 8



Jeri Greenberg, Leland, NC

This was a quick painting from a walk uptown in NYC one afternoon before we moved to NC. It's one of the beautiful ornate staircases the Upper East side boasts as well as a cart for a quick lunch stop.

View from the Corner 14 x 10



MaryAnn Grib, Gray, TN

I was away from home when the challenge was sent out so I didn't have too much time to work on it. So I'll call this a study. It's on 8x10 multi media paper prepared with clear gesso.

While on my trip I took a lot of walks in the area and I snapped this scene of someone walking their dog as I was approaching this lovely stone church. I loved the scene and did a charcoal pencil sketch when I got back from the walk. I would like to take this from a study to a finished painting.

I enjoyed the elements of the suburban landscape along with the morning shadows. Future title will be morning walk.



(study for future, "Morning Walk")

10 x 8

Alec Hall, Hendersonville

3rd Street Mural

6 x 6



Surface: UART 500 grit

For me, this was one of the hardest challenges to do... I just could not get excited about doing man-made objects, let alone a cityscape.

I spent two mornings this week wandering the streets of Hendersonville (The Little Apple of western NC) looking for appealing scenes. In the end, I chose this mural on Third Street, both for its color and simplicity. The street was lined with cars, but I only kept 3 for this painting.

While I enjoyed watching Aline Ordman do her cityscape demo this month, this subject does not stimulate my muse...

...give me a horse or a dog please!

Mona Hearne, Matthews, NC

This work is of course unfinished and is after Terri Ford. Changed up the colors using Ludwig's and Creta pastel pencils. 9x10 on Uart 400. I look forward to completing the painting. It was fun.



Mintwood Barn, 8 x 10



The bottom is also 8x10 on Uart 400, Ludwig's mostly. Not urban, but adjoins urban Mint Hill.

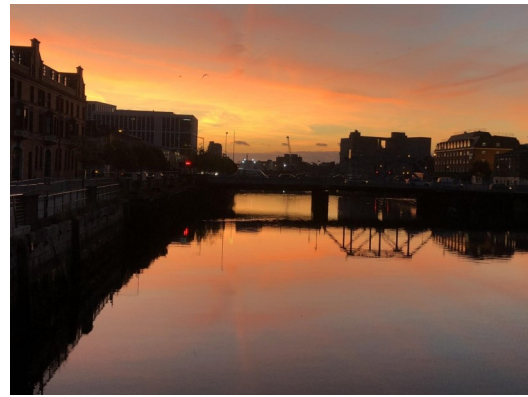
The 100 year barn was torn down, but I snapped lots of photos prior.

Kathy Hutchinson, Rutherfordton, NC

Title: Sunset over Cork, Ireland

4"x 6" on sanded pastel board

Using a variety of pastel and pastel pencil



This is painted from a photo taken by a resident of Cork with permission given. It is not quite finished. What intrigued me about this photo are the reflections. Not only what showed in the reflections that weren't evident on land but also the way the sun is reflected in the windows of opposing buildings.

My attached photo does not seem to show true colors.



Sunset over Cork, Ireland

4 x 6

Lynn Jackson, Brevard, NC

I struggled with this Adventure challenge. I don't like to do buildings because I have a hard time keeping my hand steady to draw lines.

I changed the colors of some of the stores for more contrast. The paper was Canson Mi Tientes pastel paper with Rembrandt pastels.

I will probably still stay away from urban scenes, but it was definitely a challenge for me. There were several times I was going to give up, but made myself complete it!



Downtown Davidson

12 x 16

Jan Jackson, Hendersonville, NC



8 x 10

"Vegas Sunset", an 8" x 10".

The other is untitled, but was a park in NYC I painted for my daughter. It is also 8" x 10".

I must say I didn't particularly enjoy doing either of them, because I found them too constricting. Probably won't be doing many more of these!



Vegas Sunset

8 x 10

Karen Knaub, Lake Lure

This is not completed yet. I took this picture in 2002.

The walled city is beautiful and no picture can do it justice. I have painted a few city scenes and prefer the night scenes, but was visiting during the day.

I think the most challenging part of this scene is to make it interesting and fun. Most buildings are all the same color, and they are all on top of each other. I hope to complete this soon.

Thank you for another fun challenge.

Dubrovnik 12 x 16



Cindy Lidd, Garner, NC

Attached is my pastel painting "After the Rain", a sketchy-type painting from a photo taken in China in an alley-way after a rain.

It is on Uart 400, 9 x 12.

Thanks for the challenge!



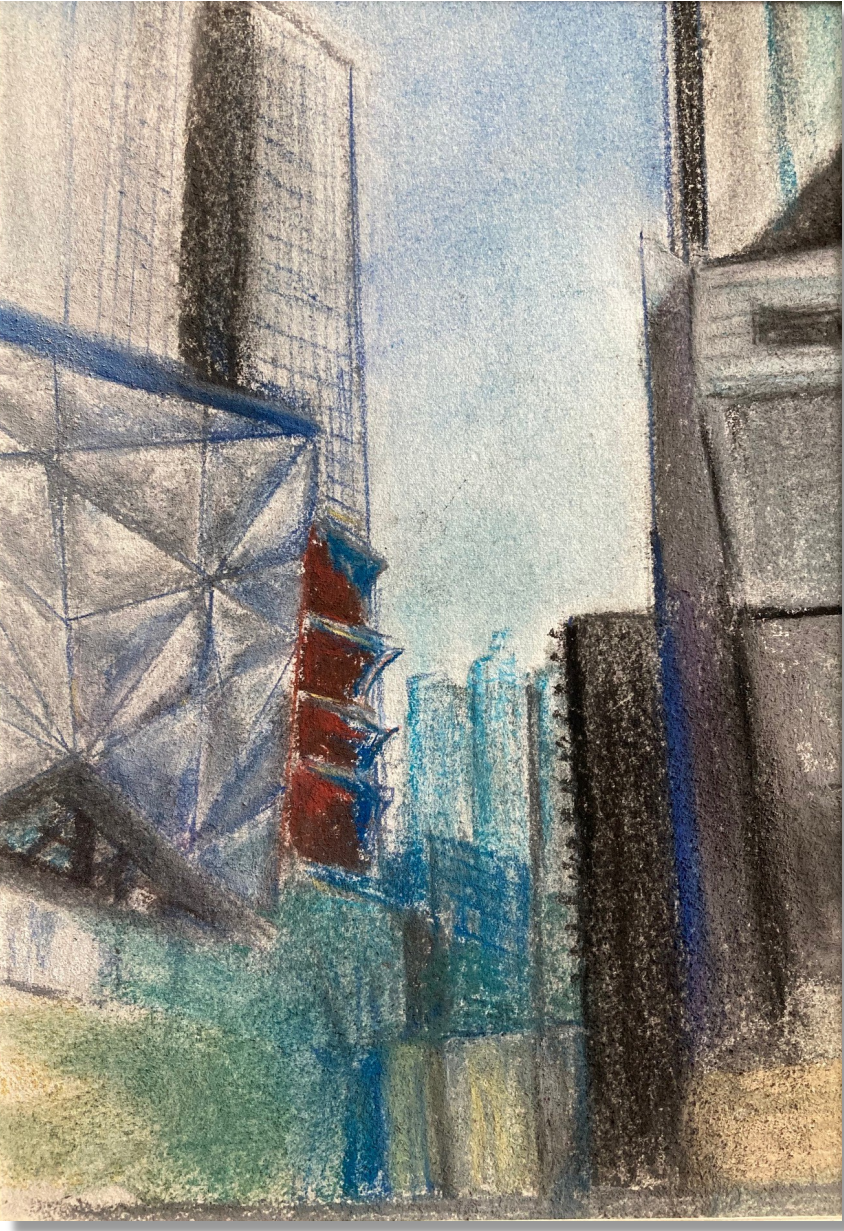
After the Rain

12 x 9

Margaret V Lyn-Soroken, Black Mountain

Medium: pastel on sketch paper

From photo taken from Highline in NY ...started sketch to explore ...found it's more complicated so unfinished...



City Scape
10 x 7

Chris McGraw, Asheville

Our View

12 x 15



This was our view from our hotel room in Italy a couple of decades ago. This was done on a sheet of white Pastelmat using hard and soft pastels of various manufacture. I started with a dark blue grisaille underpainting, using Inktint washed with alcohol.

This was a very challenging Adventure! But also great fun. Many thanks to the APS Adventure Committee!

Meryl Meyer, Weaverville



New York Hot Dog Vender

11 x 14 on UART 400

This is my own reference, from a trip to my birth city 14 years ago. I was getting ready for my shoulder surgery.

I wanted to do some street scene studies. While painting this I was dealing with pain. I stopped just before the surgery. It is unfinished and I may want a do over. I did a value thumbnail last Spring and used it as a guide. I eliminated a few things and could probably eliminate more. That was my greatest challenge along with decreased mobility of my arm. I liked the yellow cabs driving by in the background which is so New York and the vender at his cart doing business. I would like to do more street scenes. Aline made it look so easy.

Kathryn Olive, Durham, NC

Please find the submission for Adventures on Pastel B3 " Big Apple"

This is San Antonio downtown, charcoal and black pastel on paper. I always try to avoid city scapes as the angles and lines always prove a challenge. I had fun with this tho.

Downtown San Antonio



Gary Rupp, Black Mountain, NC



Nupastel

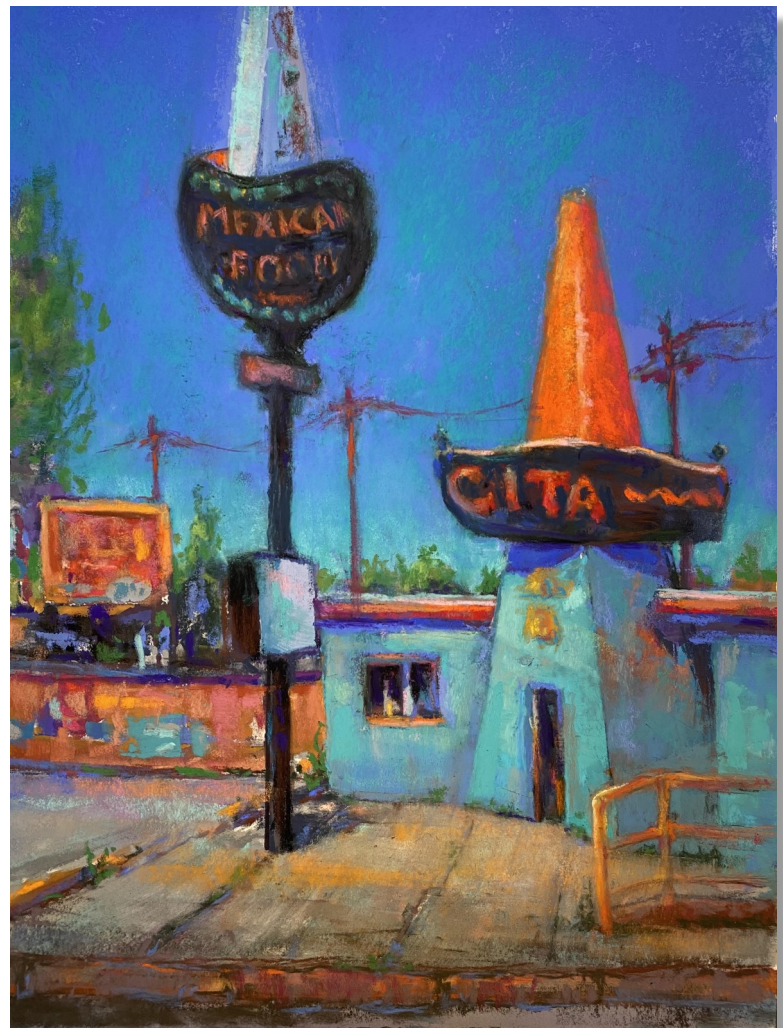


guache

Several years ago on the way home from IAPS I had gotten some advice from a gallery owner to stop off in Tucumcari which is just off I-40 east of Albuquerque. Old Route 66 went through Tucumcari and you can still see a good bit of the classic kitsch architecture that was built for the tourist trade. This painting is an example of just one of the quirky places you can find there. I always wanted to paint it but never had the right opportunity until this Adventure.

Tucumcari Kitsch

12 x 8



I started with an underpainting done on Lux Archival paper with Nupastel #244 and then washed it with denatured alcohol. My next step was to use guache to put in the major areas of color. I really enjoy the guache since it dries with a matte finish and works well with pastel.

My hope is the viewer enjoys the final piece of the tacky but playful architecture as much as I did in painting it.

Andrea Stutesman, Black Mountain

Bath, ME City Hall 12 x 9



Oh, what a challenge. I'm in rural Maine. I went into Bath yesterday to find "cityscapes". I decided on the City Hall to paint.

It's not finished, and I see a lot I need to work on (like perspective) when I get home, but it is where it is given the following: very limited pastel collection, pouring down rain, and bad lighting in the RV. It is what it is, for now.

Thanks again for a great opportunity to hone skills and learn.

Mary Tallman, Jackson, MI

Streets of Barcelona Spain

18 x 12

On Kitty Wallis paper



I paint a lot of cityscapes either en plein air or in my studio. This one I am attaching is a studio piece.

I was attracted to this composition because of the strong vertical masses and the contrast between the warm lights and the neutral greys framing them.

Ruth Whitaker, Newnan, GA

Burnsville, NC.

8x10 on Uart 400lb paper. Used mostly Rembrandt and a few softer.

I only had a mini kit to work with we are out of town.

I definitely like landscapes better but a good challenge.



Small Town U.S.A 8 x 10

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