



APS Adventures in Pastel C-4 "Limited Strokes"

Welcome to the fourth Adventure in this series! In this Adventure the challenge is to produce a painting using only 100 Strokes. I hear several artists saying, "but that's impossible!"

It is definitely a challenge, but not impossible. It will be a stretch from what most of us typically do in our painting but there is the real Adventure!

Before going further, let's define a stroke. One stroke is when you apply the pastel stick to the paper and continues until you lift that stick up from the surface. In other words, it would be possible to cover the entire surface of your paper in ONE stroke as long as you do not lift the stick from the surface.

Please see the illustrations below to see how an apple was created in 20 strokes for demonstration purposes.

You may still be asking why limit the work to 100 strokes. There are many reasons for attempting this particular Adventure, but the simplest one is this: We all need help in being pushed out of our comfort zones! And this is the Adventure to do just that. Too often our comfort zone becomes a rut and soon we are stuck and don't really understand why. This is your opportunity to think and plan your painting in an entirely different frame of mind.

Composition, value, colors are all still important but now the critical element is the stroke count. Relax, take a breath and have fun!

The best way to count your strokes is to have a paper nearby where you can make a tick mark every time you put down a pastel stick.

Step 1: Consider what subject you want to attempt, especially how complex do you want to try. The color palette and surface are all up to you. Make sure you have a paper nearby to keep track of your strokes.

Step 2: Making your large shapes with one stroke will require some preplanning. You may want to experiment several times just to get the feel of keeping your pastel on the surface longer than usual. You might find your hand twisting in some new and unusual ways.

Step 3: Take a photo of your painting when you have completed the 100 strokes and send this to Kay Gordon (jkaygordon364@gmail.com) by April 26th at 6:00PM. Be sure to include the title, size and any comments you would like to share on how this Adventure impacted your artwork.

Step 4: Remember, this deadline is firm. Nothing can be posted that is received after 6:00PM on April 26th. Do feel free to continue working on your painting after the 100 strokes, but be sure the photo you send in is at the 100 stroke limit!

GET READY, GET SET, PAINT UP TO 100!

Here are the first five strokes on the apple...



...and the apple at 20 strokes.