



APS Adventures in Pastel C-5 "Grey Power"

Welcome to our fifth Adventure in this series. The challenge here is all about grey! Grey has been long associated with depression, evil, horror, dull, dirty or conservative. This Adventure is to explore the many aspects of grey; not white, not black but the infinite range of rich expressive "colors" that exist between them.

The word grey was first recorded in 700 AD. It was the color of undyed wool and used as clothing for the peasants and monks, therefore the color representing the poor and humble. Colors worn by the wealthy were costly. For instance, Lapis Lazuli, was a color worth more than gold and represented a very high status.

The more readily available pigments made of carbon (ie, soot) and minerals, such as red and yellow ochre were used in the caves of Lascaux, France (17,000 years ago) and Chauvet, France (35,000 years ago).

Fast forward several centuries, Chinese artists used carbon based ink to create beautiful washes and figures.

Another leap to the Renaissance saw Michelangelo use grey to create grisailles and drawings.

Although grey is considered the absence of color, it is that very characteristic which allows it to reflect or produce a foil for nearby colors creating warm, cool or neutral greens and blues.

Grey values have been used in etchings, black and white photography, woodcuts and more recently by Picasso in his epic "Guernica"; and James Whistler's 1871 painting, actually titled "Arrangement in Grey and Black".

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This challenge is to limit your palette to 3 grey values: light, medium and dark. Also, you are encouraged to use warm and cool greys in each of the three values. Your surface can be a fourth value. The choice is up to you.

Step 1: Decide on the subject of your choice; then select your palette based on the three values of light, medium and dark with warm and cool greys in each value. Remember, the surface you choose can be a fourth value.

Step 2: Using your selected grey palette, notice how working in greys puts a strong emphasis on value. How often it is said "Value does all the work and color gets all the glory". In this Adventure, value gets all the attention!

Step 3: Take a photo of your painting and send it along with the title and size to Kay Gordon (jkaygordon364@gmail.com) by May 24th at 6:00PM. Please feel free to share any comments you would like about your experience of painting in greys.

Step 4: Remember, this deadline is firm and nothing can be posted that is received after 6:00PM on May 24th. Note that your artwork does NOT need to be in its finished form. The Adventures are provided so we can explore painting with pastels together and share what we learn as we grow in our experience and expertise. So enjoy the process and jump in!

GET READY, GET SET, GO GREY!

Examples of “Grey Power”

Cave paintings in France



Chinese carbon based ink wash



*“Arrangement in Grey and Black”
James Whistler, 1871*



Picasso's “Guernica”