

The following 28 artists, who are members of the Appalachian Pastel Society, participated in this virtual group activity. The artwork they created is shared here. Hugs and best wishes to all.

APS Adventures in Pastel D-1 “The Sky’s the Limit”

Welcome to our NEW Adventure Series D which will run for the next six months. Our first Adventure in the series is all about the sky and outer space. Have you ever looked at the night sky and wondered what is out there? Have you ever dreamed of taking flight in order to see the many planets? I remember the first moon landing and how dreaming can sometimes become reality. Then along came Star Wars and gave us a glimpse of what galaxies far, far away might be like. The exciting part is that now with the phenomenal research being done in space we are seeing a bit of what is actually out there.

This Adventure asks you to paint something out in space. You may either use your imagination or be more realistic and paint from some of the incredible pictures that are now available. (See examples below) Feel free to paint planets, stars, comets or even a galaxy. The choice is all yours!

Step 1: Select your surface, size and palette of your choice.

Step 2: Use your imagination or find an inspiring photo of space. Feel free to search out other artists and view their particular renditions of space for more inspiration and ideas.

Step 3: Take a **photo of your painting** and send it to Kay Gordon (jkaygordon364@gmail.com) by **6:00pm of Wednesday, July 26th**. Be sure to send the **title and size** also. Please include any comments you would like to share as you faced this challenge.

Step 4: Remember this deadline is firm and nothing is posted that is received after 6:00pm on **July 26th**. Note that your artwork does not need to be in its final 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!

Kathy Amspacher, Hendersonville

My parents signed me up for the Science Fiction Book Club when I was in the third grade and I have been a spacophile since then. I read Isaac Asimov and Arthur C. Clarke so I so enjoyed this challenge!

The painting is done on gatorboard primed with acrylic house paint and then in Golden pastel primer. I am a fan of Tom Christopher's method. The process photo shows a little of the prep.

I chose the Moon because of my hope that we do not take our political hostilities to the moon. Oh dear!

Arthur Clarke quote: "There is a hopeful symbolism in the fact that flags do not wave in a vacuum."

Soft pastels

Thanks for this exercise in space!



Neutral Zone
12 x 12

Claire Benton, Riverview, FL

Finally Have the Space

4.75 x 6.25



"Finally Have the Space"

4.75 x 6.25

Canson Mi Teintes paper

Jane Best, Morganton



Beyond Beyond

8 x 10

I like to work from my own reference photos as I don't have any outer space photos I experimented by painting clear gesso over an old painting for texture then covering with soft pastels.

I enjoyed this interesting challenge.

Daphne Boder, Pittsboro, NC

This was so fun. My reference was from one of the images that was taken by one of those telescopes. Maybe the Hubble. This was painted on 320 Uart paper and is 9 x 12.

Was this where it all began?



Was this the Beginning?

9 x 12

Beryl Bradley, Brevard, NC

Star Bright

8 x 10



Attached is my submission for this month's challenge. It's on 8x10 premier white sanded paper & various hard and soft pastels. This was a fun challenge!

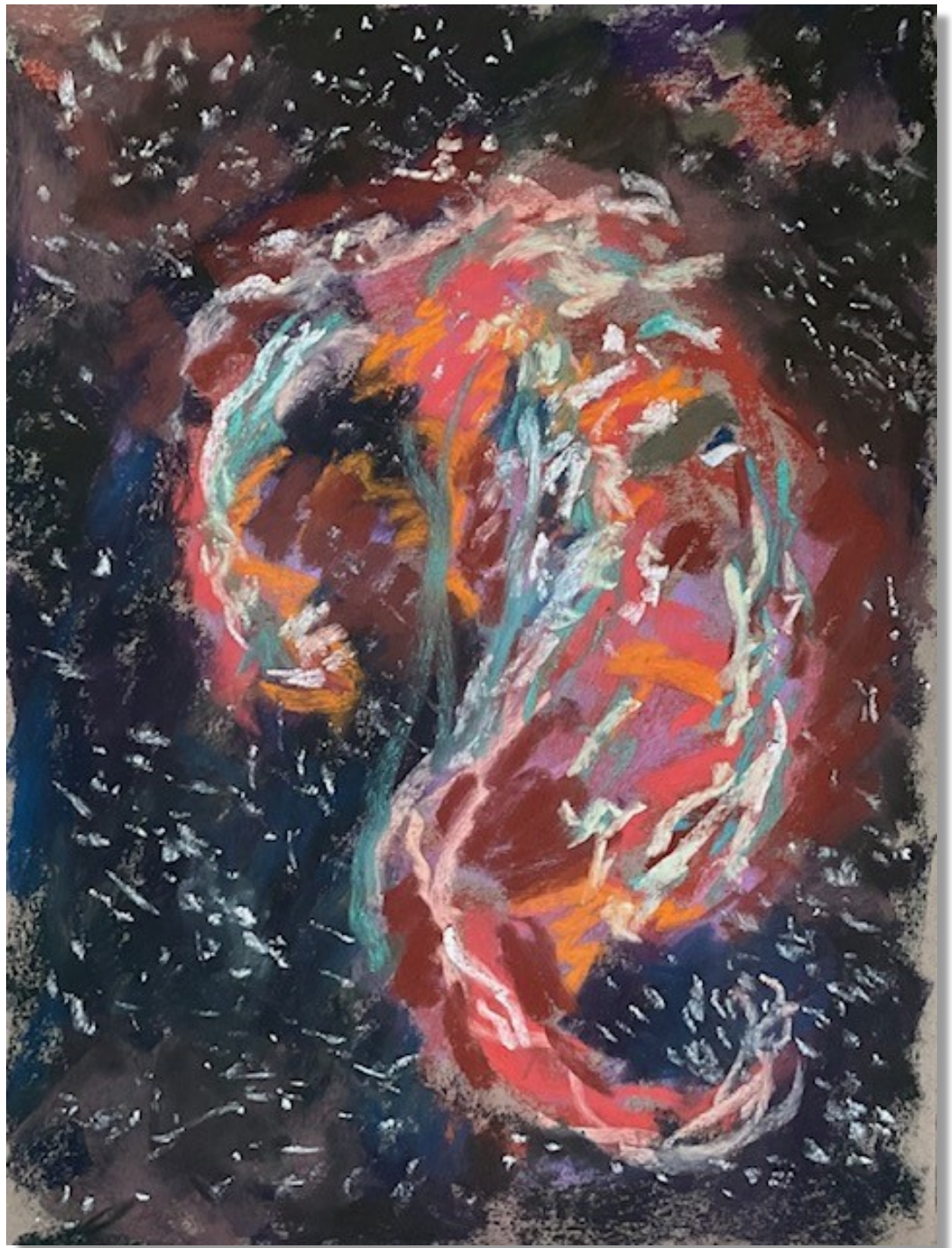
Thanks

Chris Carroll, New Bern, NC

Painted on Dakota Travel Block, 9x12 Italian Clay . Very freeing! Loved looking at all the space photography!! It was hard to decide on which one to paint. The design and colors caught my eye 😊

Thanks for the challenge.

Chris Carroll



Nebula
12 x 9

Deborah Chase, Rutherfordton, NC



Dark Planet

8.5 x 11.5

Here is my entry for this Adventure. Trying something different, I applied pastel to Stonehenge paper then put a heavy wash of water over it with a brush. While still very wet I dropped and sprayed alcohol on it to create the crater look on the surface. I then added a little more pastel to shape the spheres.

It's a busy summer, hope everyone is having fun.

Nancy Clausen, Swannanoa, NC

I call the painting Night Light. It still needs some work, but will need to wait. I didn't intend for the painting to be what it's turned out to be, but so far so good. It's been fun seeing where it was going.

It's a 12 x 12 on Ampersand board. I have used a variety of pastels. Terry Ludwig, Great American, Nupastel and others.

I have always enjoyed watching the moon come up especially when it's been full and thinking of all the other stars and planets that can't be seen. It's one of those things that will never change. Reliable.



Night Light 12 x 12

Jennifer Donolo, Burlington, ON, Canada

Please find my submission attached for APS
Adventures in Pastel D-1
“The Sky’s the Limit.” Thank you and the Team for another great Adventure!

Pastel on Sennelier La Carte Pastel Card Noir
Anthracite - Charcoal

Travelling by plane provides such fascinating views of our earth below and the almost ‘outer space’ outside the window.

View from Above
13.5 x 7.5





Bailey's Bead 9 x 10

My submittal for D-1 showing a lunar eclipse with a Diamond ring effect or Bailey's Bead.

It's a 9"x10" on Uart 400, built up with various soft pastels.

As a child my family watched Sputnik 1 as it made its way across the sky, fall 1957. A few years ago, I enjoyed a total eclipse, during the day.

Another challenging and fun challenge.

J Kay Gordon, Weaverville, NC

*“Take him and cut him out in little stars,
And he will make the face of heaven so fine
That all the world will be in love with the night.”*

Romeo and Juliet, William Shakespeare

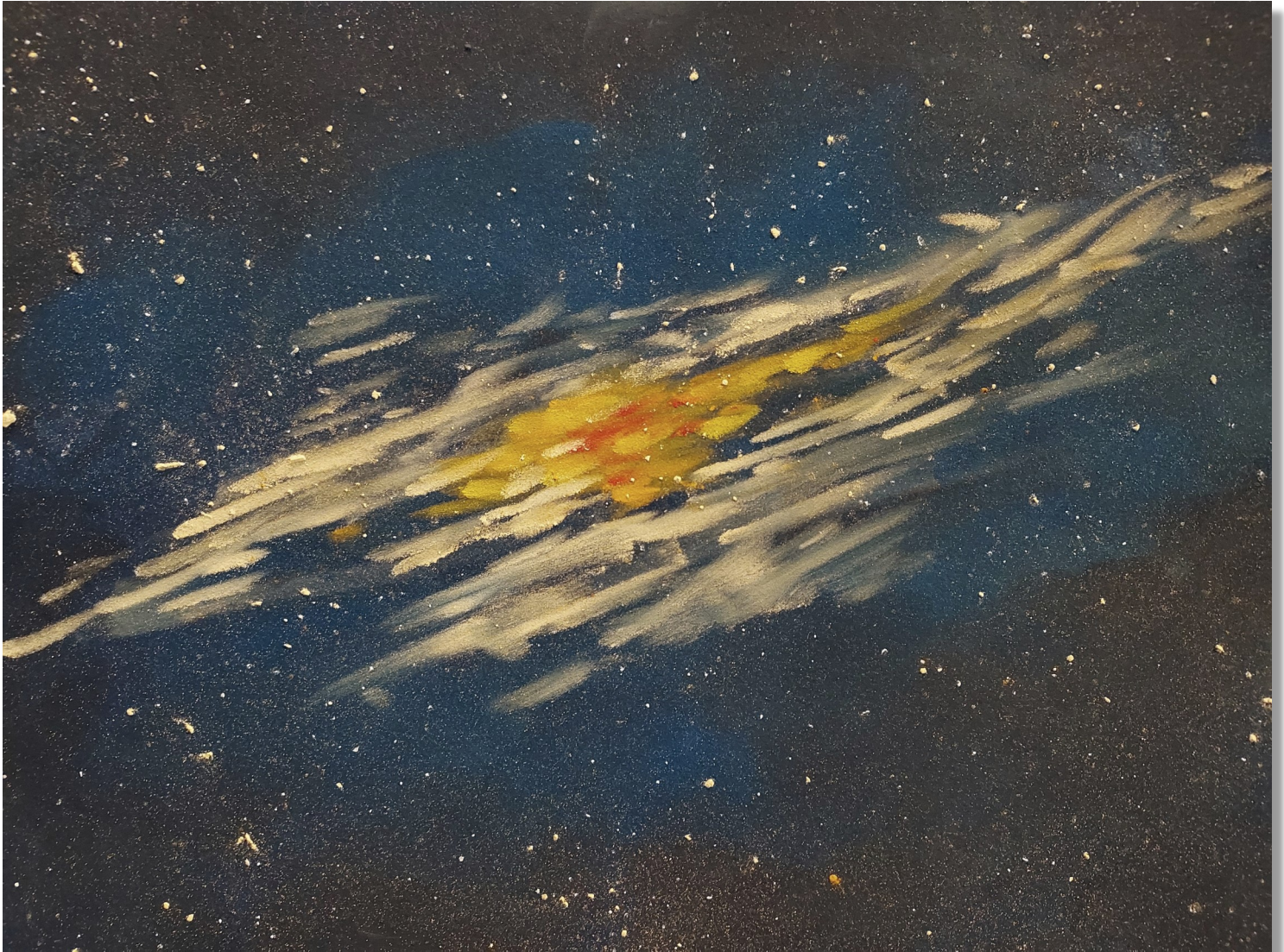


“...in love with the night.”

6 x 8

Black UArt (800) was perfect for this night sky. I did a quick sketch with white charcoal and then started on the sky first. I created the milky way and the basic tones of the sky (from very dark in the distance to softly warm at the bottom). I used a soft light blue pastel for some of the larger stars, and then dusted with particles of white scraped off of a PanPastel pan.

When we are camping, we are often in places that have low light pollution, and see so many stars that there seems to be no space between them.



This was definitely an interesting challenge. When I think of space my mind sees darkness and massive amounts of stars....not too exciting. So I looked through some photos online to get some ideas and I found one that interested me and I used creative license to make it a bit more colorful.

I used dark blue Inktense stick with alcohol as an underpainting and then I used some dark blue pan pastels to bring a darker area on the outer edge using more pans I created the central mass...like celestial clouds in the milky way. I added the excess dust from the pans to create the starry sky. That was a little tricky because some of it flaked off.

Anyway...it was fun and I think I'm going to try out some other ideas. This is "Dynamic Space" 8x10 lux archival using mostly pan pastels.

Full disclosure the photo shows more contrast, therefore, giving it more dimension.

Alec Hall, Hendersonville

Here is my entry for Adventure D-1 “The Sky Is the Limit”.

I chose to do a fictional landscape/skyscape rather than a galaxy or stratosphere painting. I just could not bring myself to paint an out-of-space scene without the crew of the Enterprise!

Title: Other Worlds

Size: 5” x 7”

Surface: UART 500 grit



Other Worlds

5 x 7



Intergalactic Pears

9 x 12

.....takes my breath how quickly the days seem to zoom by. I do want to enter this 9x12 soft pastels on Uart 400. It's not exactly what is expected for this challenge.

But here's where I got a bit creative. I painted the pears (after Alain Picard) yesterday. But it's my signature I'm bringing attention to. I try, most of the time, to "blend" my signature into the painting, but there's a part I always include with intentionality.

When I put the cross bar in the last letter of my name I extend it to reflect a cross. As a follower of Christ Jesus, I put my trust in God's promise that He, who gave His life a ransom on the cross, risen from the dead, ascended, now in heaven seated at His Father's right hand is out of this world but is coming again. Hebrews 9:28

The pears may even look otherworldly. I sure enjoyed painting them. The best to you Kay. Thanks for all you do.

Anne Hudson, Lexington, KY



Sky Kisses the Land

7 x 5

I am going to call this one,
"Sky Kisses the Land"

Love the marsh views. This little painting is from reference photo I took in Hilton Head last fall. Jack Richardson Pastels on Uart 500 sanded paper. Size is 5x7".

Thank you again for the challenges. Cheers to all the artists.

Best regards,
Anne

Jane Hudson, Ft . Mill, SC

Omega

11 x 15



Here is a photo of my D-1 submission.

I call it Omega - it is from a photo taken by the Hubble Telescope of the Omega Nebula. I fell in love with the Hubble photos when NASA first released them.

I have never had an excuse to try to paint one before. I did this on an 11 X 14 pastelboard. I still need to go back and do some work, but I knew this next week would be hectic and I might forget.

Kathy Hutchinson, Rutherfordton, NC



Because I love working with fused glass I copied a project I did last year. It was entitled 'The Cosmos - Genesis 2:1'

What fun to replicate it in pastel.

Each glass piece is $4\frac{1}{2}'' \times 4\frac{1}{2}''$ but the pastels are $4'' \times 6''$.

They are done on Colourfix deep black using a variety of pastels.

The original photos were taken by the Hubble telescope. The first (left to right) is ARP238 'A ROSE OF GALAXIES'. Second and third are NEBULA NGC 7751 and BUTTERFLY NEBULA.

Thanks again!

Lynn Jackson, Brevard, NC

I was so excited to win the Unison pastel set from the APS Adventures Series. I have a set of Rembrandt pastels and couldn't afford to buy a set of softer pastels. I love the way the soft pastels glide on the paper!

Thank you!

When studying the Big Dipper I found that the Big Dipper is upright in the sky during the fall season and upside down in the spring. Thus this is a fall season painting!

As a child I would look outside my bedroom window for the three stars in a row that made up the Big Dipper. It was comforting to find it, a constant reminder of the beauty of God's creations.



My Cup Runneth Over

5 x 7

Karen Knaub, Lake Lure

Thank you for another challenge.

I always do an alcohol wash underpainting and for space I knew I wanted a black underpainting so I recycled a painting that was dark, mostly purples and alcohol brushed it

I really have not given much thought to outer space so this did make me have to think about it.



9 x 11

Cindy Lidd, Garner, NC

Attached is my painting "Great Nebula in Orion", of which the image is from an (old) astronomy photo book; on Uart 400, 9x12.

It will be interesting to see everyone's take on this challenge! Thanks!

Great Nebula in Orion

9 x 12



Margaret V Lyn-Soroken, Black Mountain

Title: Night sky neighbors

Size: 9x12

Medium: pastels/Blk paper

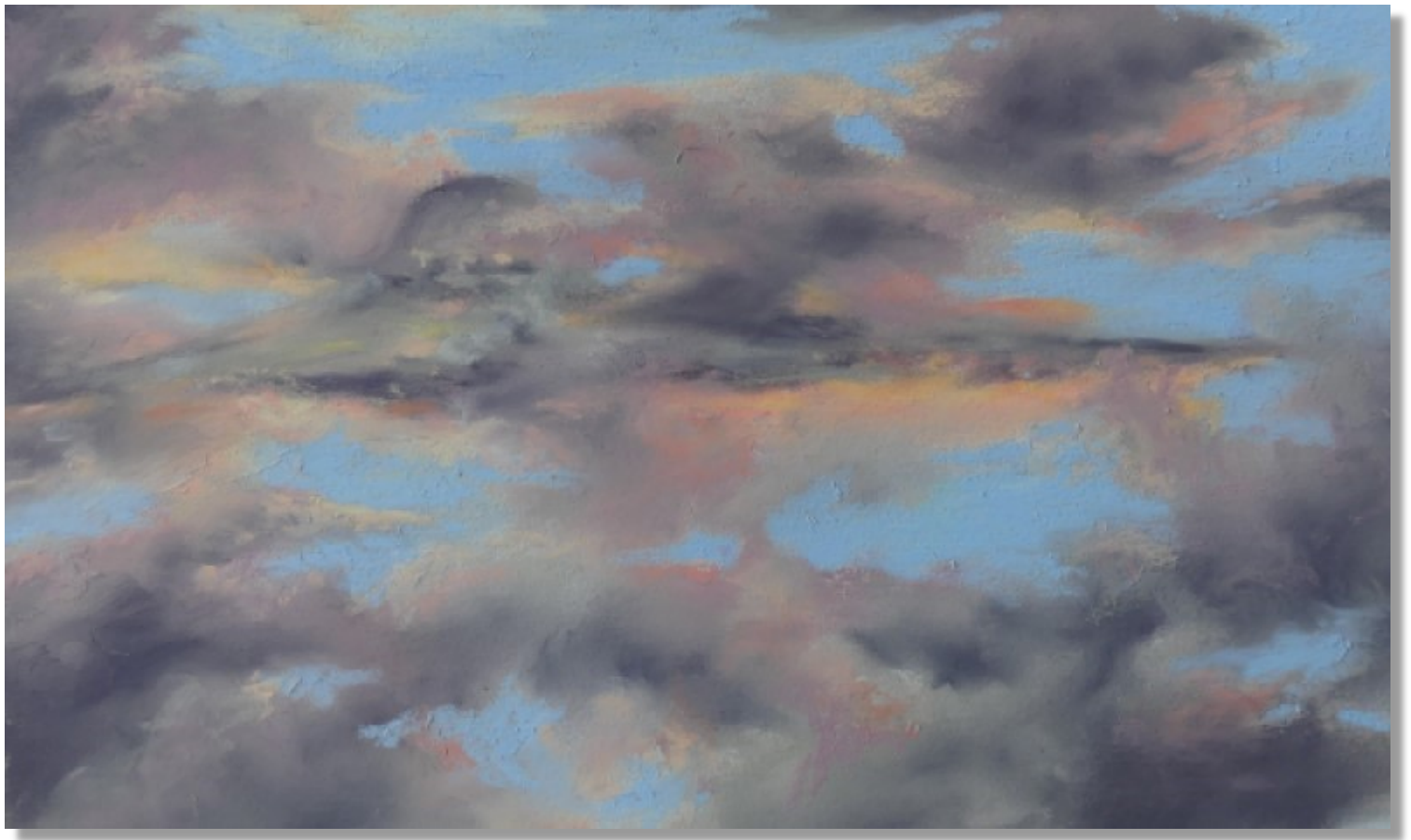
Sketch from photo taken that had strange shapes that I tried to depict.



Linda Medders-Jackson, Cross, SC

mixed pastel on UART600

An attempt at loose by a detail person



R U SEEING WHAT U THINK U SEE

4.5 X 7.5

Melissa Noll, Charlotte, NC

A star ✨ is born. On repurposed U Art 400. This challenge was fun! Thanks!!

A Star is Born

9 x 12



Pat Quigley, Norristown, PA

Caldwell Galaxy

12 x 9

I'm a new member (just this year) and have been very impressed with all you guys do! Such an active and professional group. This adventure series sounds like a lot of fun.

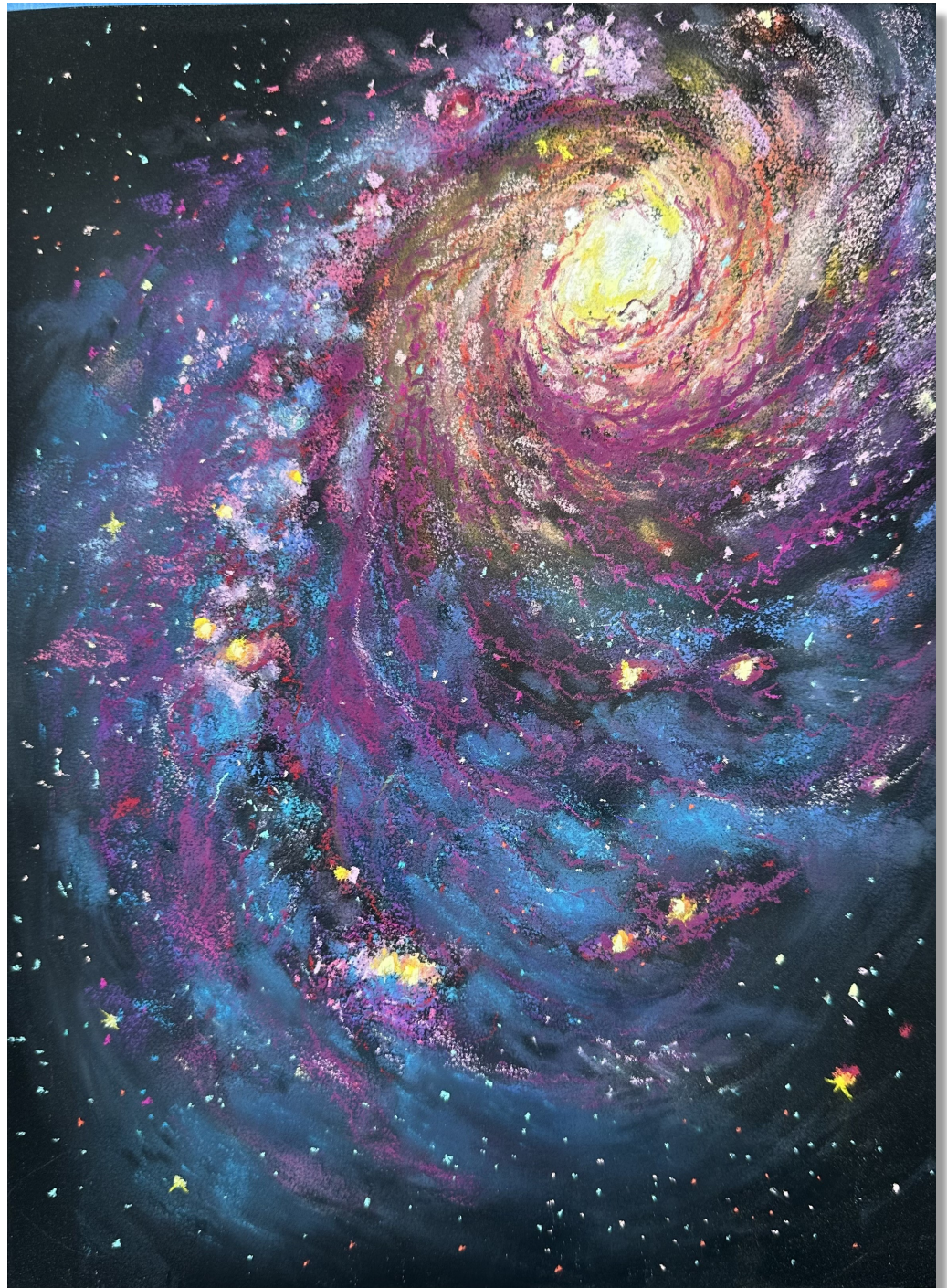
Here's my first adventure series submission. I took the prompt pretty literally and tried to paint a galaxy using an image from the NASA Hubble collection. This galaxy is called Caldwell 45.

Title: Caldwell Galaxy

Size: 9x12

Surface: Canson Touch Noir (black color)

Pastels: Mount Vision and NuPastel



What I learned: Can't avoid blending; pre-toned surface worked best for me to get that feeling of infinite space

I may try another sky scene more down to earth...

Thanks for hosting this series!

Carol Rollick, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL

Mammatus Raincloud

5 x 7

I have actually done four pieces, trying to find my way in this.

Two total abstracts and two of the Mammatus rain cloud, which to my joy I have actually seen once in North Carolina.

Possibly if I had started the Mammatus piece larger I would be happier with the piece.



The abstract, “ Looking at the Sun” probably wouldn’t “qualify” as it is not 80% pastel. It is also almost impossible to photograph as the substrait is mirror! It was something I just HAD to do.

I may play with is notion again. Much fun!

Thank you for keeping us on our toes in the doldrums of summer!

Looking at the Sun

12 x 12

Gary Rupp, Black Mountain, NC

This was a blast to paint! It brought back so many memories of a galaxy far, far away. I started by painting a Richeson pastel board with black gesso. I then used various colors of gauche and spattered the paint with a brush to give me the random feeling of stars and far away galaxies in the blackness of space. The rest was done with hard pastels and pastel pencils. The best part was trying to get the "death beam" to have a variety of colors but also to keep it looking somewhat menacing.



The Forest Moon of Endor

16 x 20

Andrea Stutesman, Black Mountain

Given that I need to work on my clouds, I thought this was a good opportunity. I have been taking classes from Tricia Taylor, so I tried creating my own grays by layering colors.

I enjoyed this challenge.

Breaking Through

9 x 12



Ruth Whitaker, Newnan, GA



Horsehead and Flame Nebulas

8 x 10

"Horsehead and Flame Nebulas" photo by Gaetan Othenin-Girard.

Uart 400 lb. paper, using assorted Sennelier and Unison Pastels. 8x10.

I enjoyed this adventure very much. It is only the second time I have tried painting outer space. I was drawn to the colors in this one.

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