



APS Adventures in Pastel C-1 "In the Bleak Midwinter"

Welcome to our NEW Adventure Series C. Our first Adventure in the series is all about the challenge of painting winter landscapes.

The name winter comes from an Old Germanic word which refers to cold rain and snow. The scientific definition says winter occurs when a hemisphere is oriented away from the sun, due to a tilt in the Earth's axis. More commonly we refer to it as a season of weather that is bitter, cold, crisp, icy, raw, snowy, frozen, frigid, nippy, etc. On a more positive note, artists and poets have found real inspiration in winter.

Robert Louis Stevenson's last verse in his Winter poem reads:

Black are my steps on the silver sod,
Thick blows my frosty breath abroad:
And tree and house,
and hill and lake,
Are frosted like a wedding cake.

Clearly, winter can be more than bleak and cold. It can be a time of peace and quiet; remembering childhood joys, plus reading a good book by the fire and all the holidays and family visits. Nothing can compare to taking a walk on a sunny winter day and seeing the beauty of trees without their leaves and looking up at the mountains capped with rime ice.

So now with the holidays past, we want you to take out your pastels and do a painting focused on winter.

Step 1: Come up with a subject that represents winter to you. The palette, size and type of surface used are all of your own choosing.

Step 2: Feel free to search out how other artists have approached painting subjects in the bleak midwinter. (See below) You may also find some helpful inspiration in the Pastel Journal, Winter 2022. It features an article titled: "The Winter Landscape".

Step 3: Send a photo of your painting along with the title and size to Kay Gordon (jkaygordon364@gmail.com) by January 25th at 6:00 PM. Be sure to include your comments on how you experienced this challenge.

Step 4: Remember, this deadline is firm. Nothing can be posted that is received after 6:00PM on January 25th. Please note that your painting does NOT need to be in its finished form. The Adventure is about painting together and experimenting with new ideas and techniques that we can then share with our fellow pastelists.

GET READY, GET SET, BE COOL...AND PAINT WINTER!



Winter Trees Study
Carol Strock Wasson

January Morning by Elizabeth Mowry

