

The following 21 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 C-6 "Red vs Blue"

This adventure explores the effect of the color of the paper (or underpainting, if you wish) that is beneath your painting. The color below not only peeks through your work, but it influences the choices of pastel sticks that you decide to use. This is due to "simultaneous contrast." Your eye perceives colors differently according to colors they are adjacent to. So, for instance, a yellow pastel mark on a red paper will look very different if that same yellow mark is made on a blue paper. In this adventure, you will create two paintings, one on a red paper and one on blue. (If you wish, you may create the red and blue surfaces with underpaintings.)

Any style and subject is acceptable. The colors you use, size and type of surface are up to you. But both paintings should be of the same or similar subjects. Your purpose will be to see the effect your paper color has on your painting...so keep the color of the paper the main variable.

Step 1: Start with one paper that is warm red, and one that is a cool blue. If you use underpaintings for this, be sure to create a surface that doesn't mix into your pastels. (You can put pastel on your paper as an underpainting and set it into the paper with alcohol...or you can underpaint with watercolor. Google, "pastel underpainting techniques" if you need to know more about preparing an underpainting.

Step 2: Paint the same picture twice...once on the red and once on the blue. You will see that specs of the paper color show through your work. You will also see that the paper color may cause you to make subtly different choices of the pastel sticks that you use.

Step 3: Send **photos of your artwork, your comments, and the titles and sizes** of your paintings to Kay Gordon (jkaygordon364@gmail.com) by **June 28th** at 6 PM.

Step 4: Remember, this deadline is firm and nothing can be posted that is received after 6 PM on **June 28th**. Your paintings do not need to be in a finished form! The adventure is so we can be painting together. This means exploring and experimenting with new ideas and techniques using pastels and then sharing the results of our learning with each other.¹

Kathy Amspacher, Hendersonville

It is always fun to see what the underpainting or paper color will do to a painting. I used sanded blue and orange/red paper. Simon, our cat, sat in our window waiting to pounce on me as I walked through our living room. He likes to play catch with the rubber plug he stole from my sink.

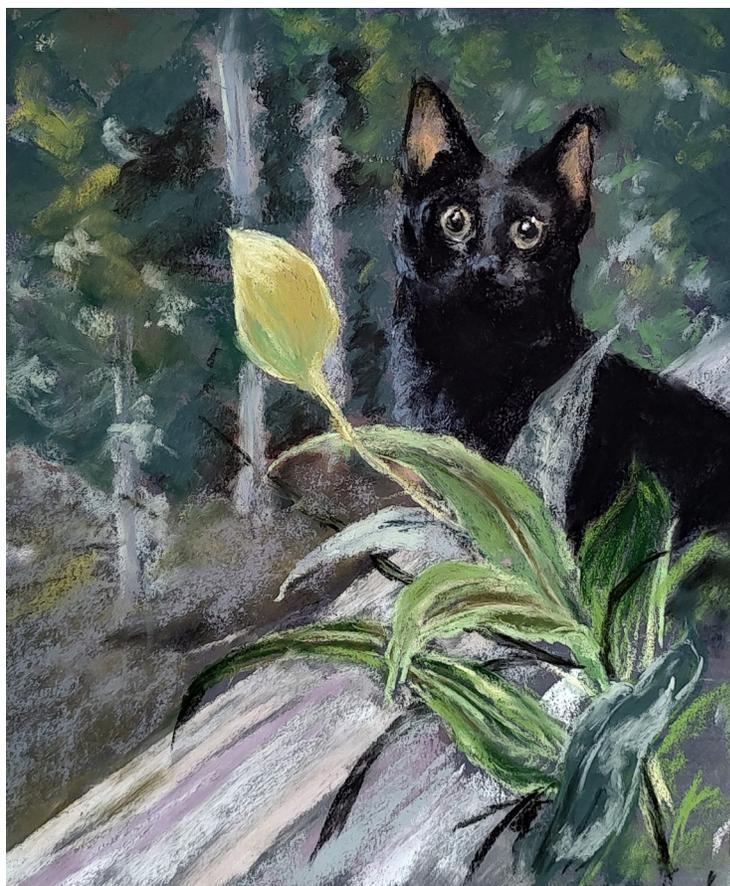
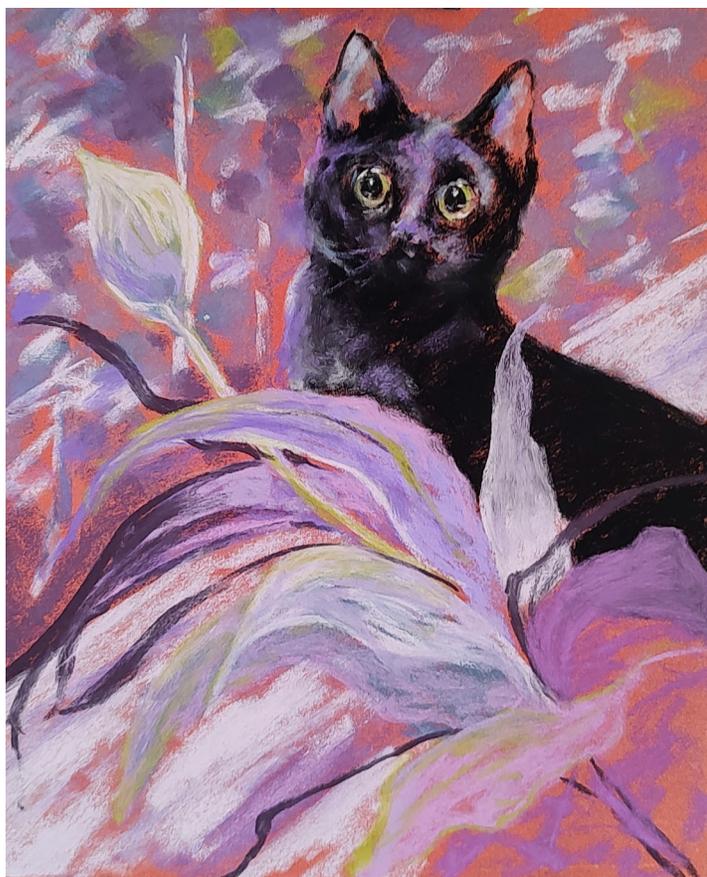
I think the blue paper suited the subject better but the red was sure fun! I left a lot of the orange red color because I was running out of time and I liked the way it looked. Tried to use complementary and analogous colors, especially on the red one.

Thanks for this fun exercise.

Title: Simon Scares Mommy

Size: 13 1/2 x 11 1/2 (Both)

Soft pastels and some pastel pencils.



Simon Scares Mommy

13.5 x 11.5

Claire Benton, Riverview, FL

Done on 9" x 6" Art Spectrum Colourfix beige paper. Background colors were fixed with alcohol washes. I used the same pastels on each of them.



The Orange was Tasty
6 x 9



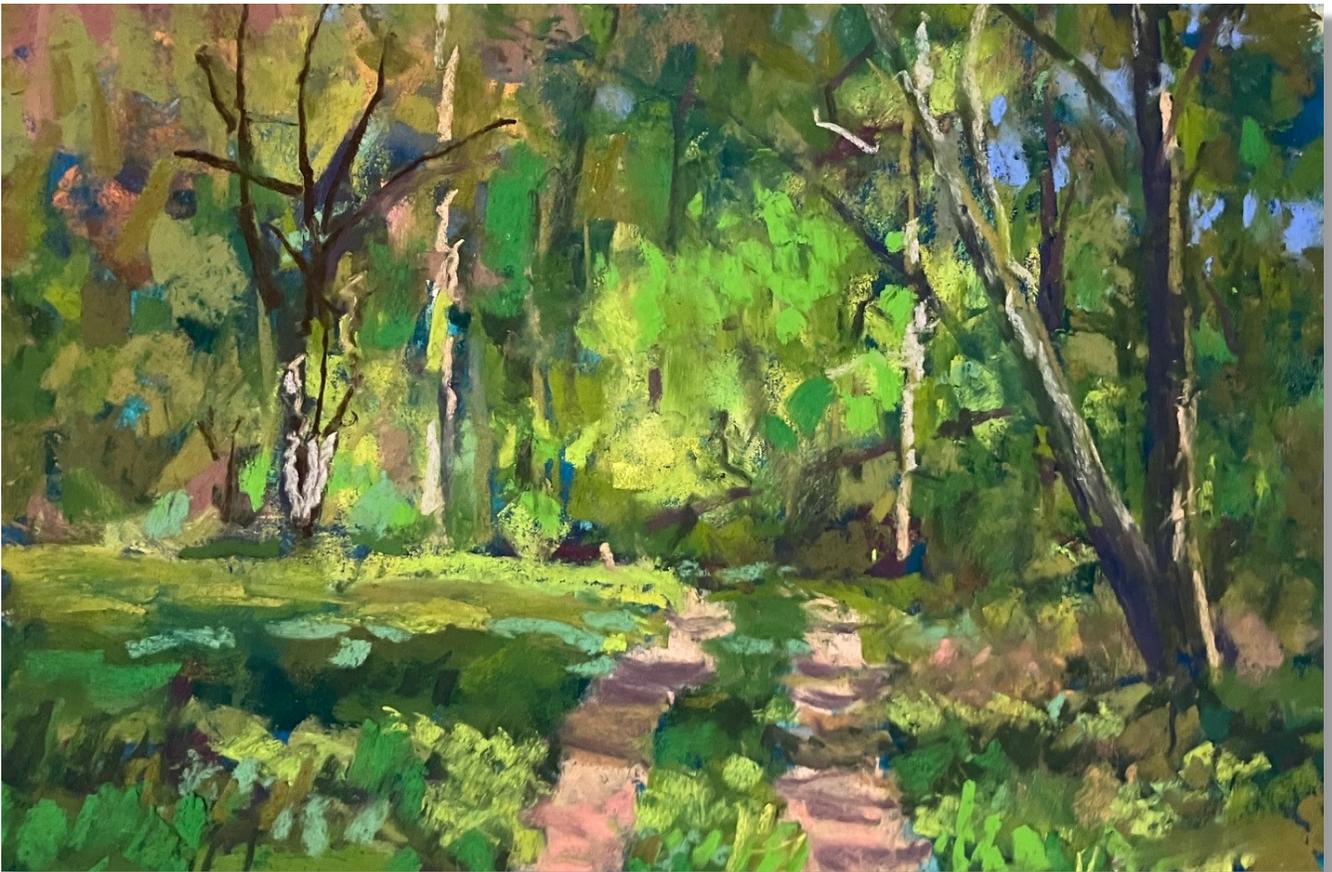
Just as Tasty Again
6 x 9

Jane Best, Morganton



Spring Fever

8 x 11



This was an excellent adventure and exercise in seeing how different color choices for underpaintings or tones could influence a painting.

The paper for this painting, based on a photo I took this spring at Table Rock State Fish hatchery, is toned with blue acrylic ink. The other one, not shown, was done on art spectrum terra cotta paper. I do like that paper but I definitely overworked this one and finally decided the best place for it was the garbage bin!

Kenny Rogers's poker song words, ..."know when to hold them, know when to fold them"... certainly applied this time.

Thanks for this challenge

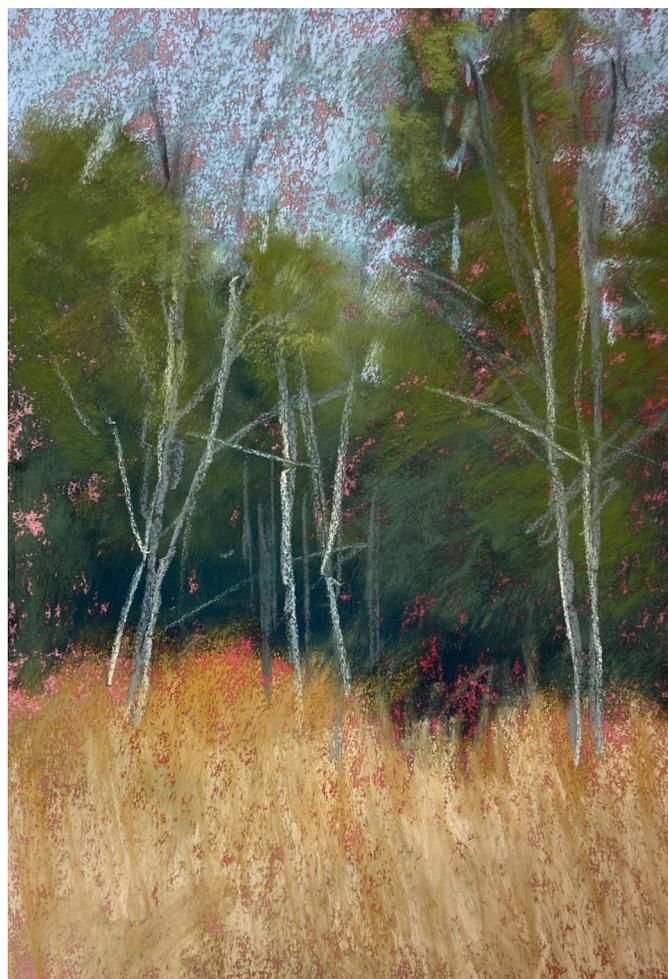
Daphne Boder, Pittsboro, NC

These are both 5 x 7 on #400 Uart paper. I worked on these side by side in order to use the same pastels. The title is "Along the Road." I believe I like the one with the red underpainting best but I also like the bits of blue showing through on the other.

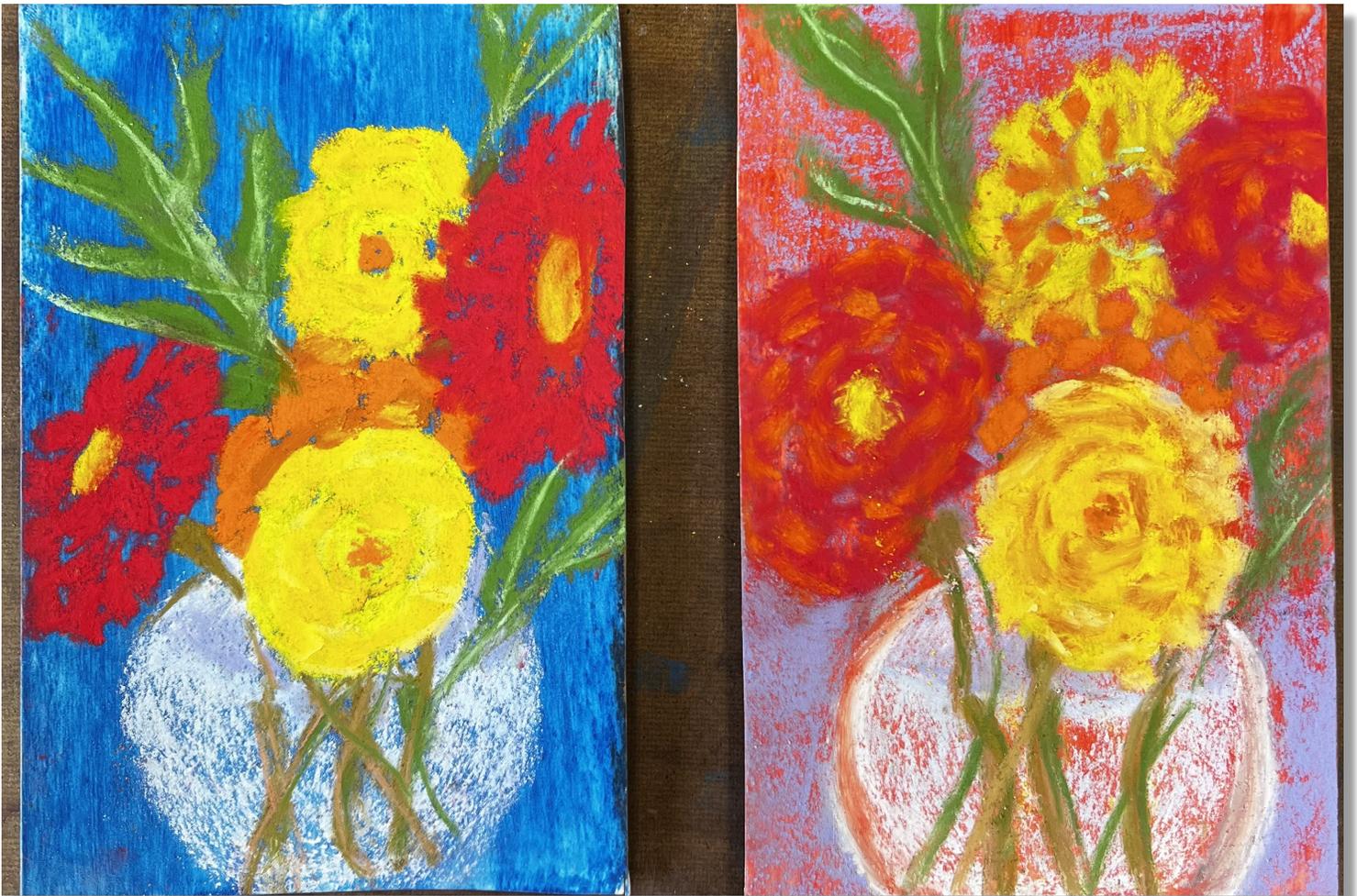


Along the Road

7 x 5



Beryl Bradley, Brevard, NC



Loved this challenge! White paper painted blue and red, then an alcohol wash.
4x6 premier paper. Mostly soft pastels.

Chris Carroll, New Bern, NC

Good adventure and I enjoyed it!! My paper is Art Spectrum, 9x12 from their Cool Pack. They had a dark red and dark blue in this pack so I used them. The first one is on Dark Red and the second on Dark Blue. I did use many different pastels to do the painting.

The original is an oil painting that I have admired over and over, so that's the reason I chose to use it for this session.



Deborah Chase, Rutherfordton, NC



on red

Color Studies

9.5 x 8



on blue

I tried a couple of small landscapes on each color of Canson Mi-Teintes paper but used the same pastels on both for the local color. They turned out very similar.

I then tried to let the paper color influence my color schemes and to avoid local color I worked with a non traditional image.

Fun adventure.

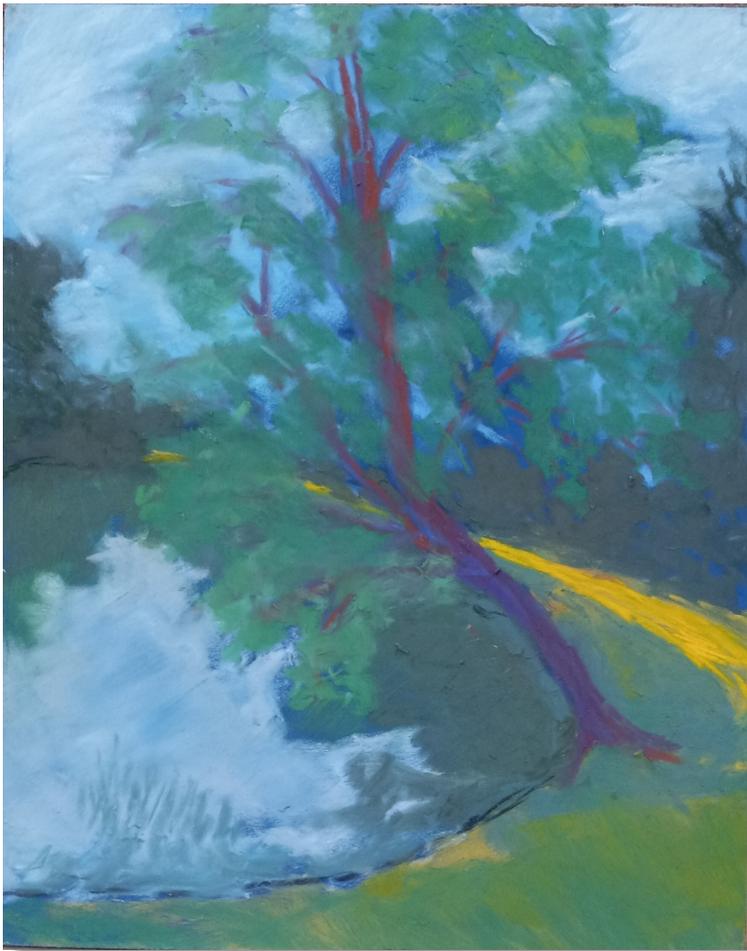
Nancy Clausen, Swannanoa, NC

The first is the painting with the blue underpainting. It's done with a New Pastel that I found in a box in my drawer with 5 others in different blue shades.

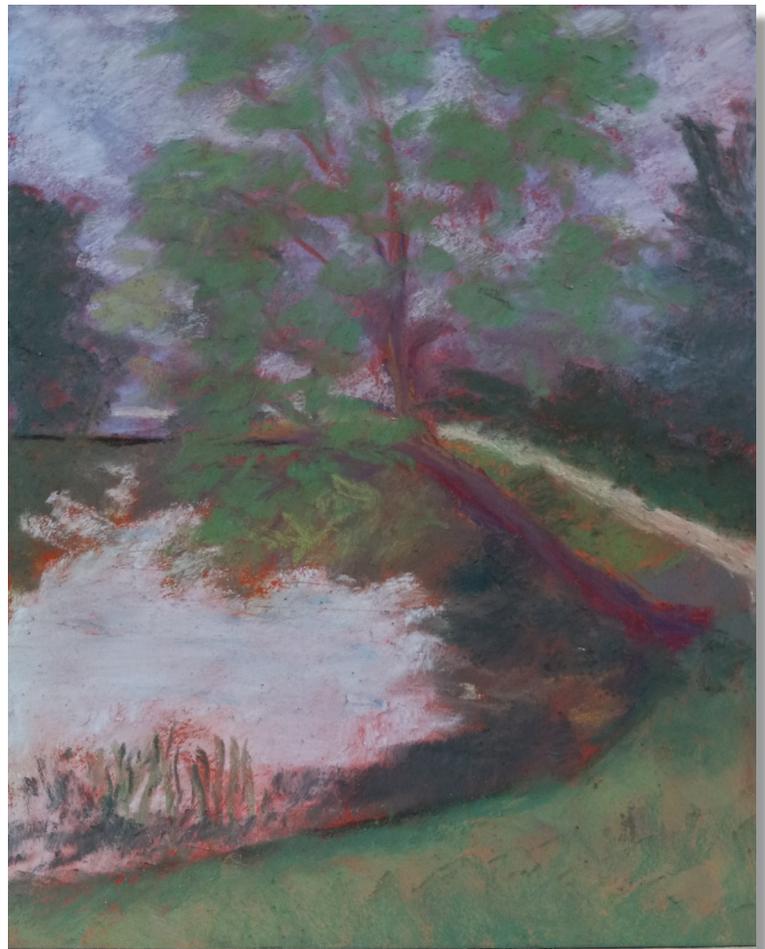
The painting done with a red underpainting was done with a Great American pastel.

The tree was one of the first paintings I did at Owen Park Lake a good many years ago. I've watched the tree over the years and saw where the lake has gradually gotten closer to it. This weekend when I went to take a picture of it for the Adventure I realized that the lake was beginning to cover it's roots. So far it's surviving. I entitled the painting Survivor, actually it's Survivor 1 and 2.

The support is Ampersand Board. I'm not sure what pastels I used, a mixture of different ones. The sizes of the paintings are 8 x 10.



Survivor 1 10 x 8



Survivor 2 10 x 8

Diane de Grasse, Black Mountain

A great challenge! Got my curiosity up, too.

I applied the base colors to sheets of ivory Canson Mi-Teintes paper using pan pastel and alcohol to cover. Right away, I wished it had more tooth.

Anyway, I used the same mix of mostly soft pastels for both pieces.

The background poked through on both - the blue best suited to the violets, but lacking warmth so I added a touch of orange.

Thanks for the opportunity to explore!

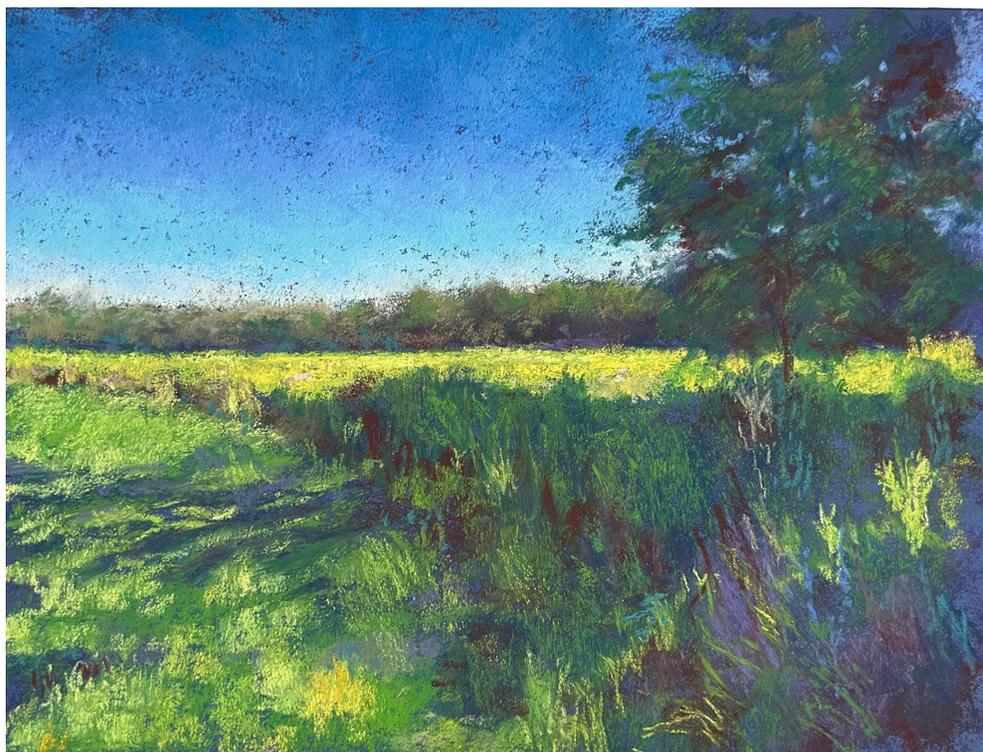


Violets on Blue and Red

6 x 8

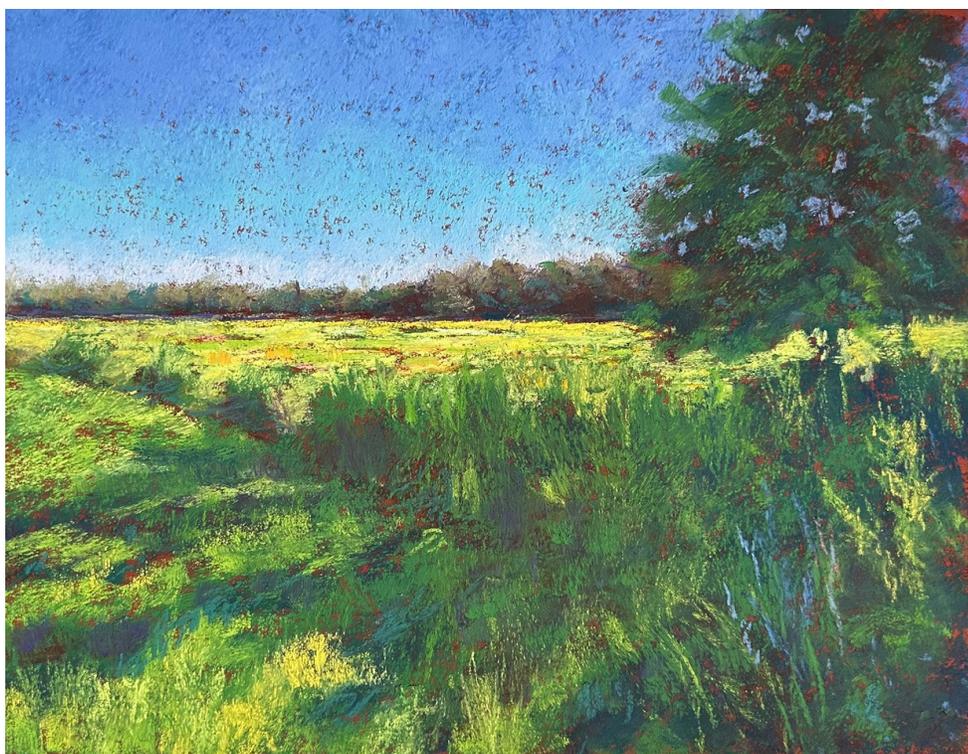
Jennifer Donolo, Burlington, ON, Canada

Please find my two submissions for Adventure C-6 attached. Thank you and the Team for another great Adventure!



Summer Day, Blue
9 x 11.75

Summer Day, Red
9 x 11.75



Will Evans, Fairview

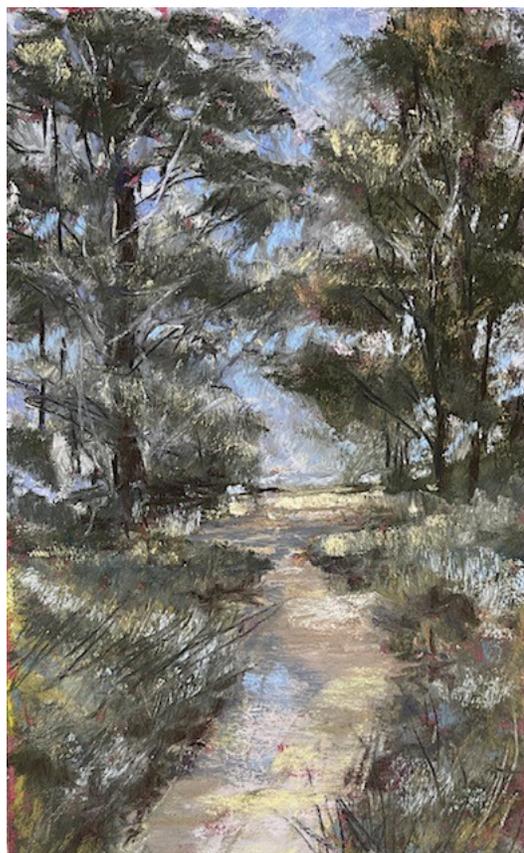
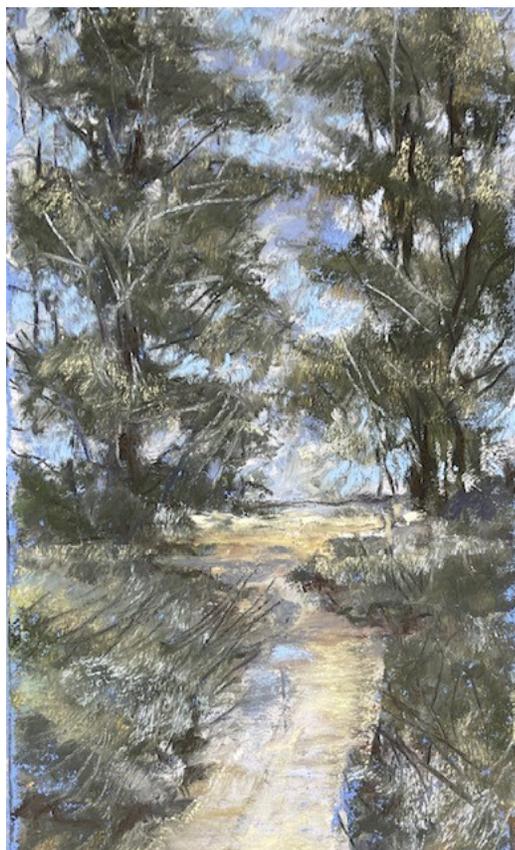
Attached are my two pastels for this challenge "Red vs. Blue"

On beige Uart 240, each 4 1/2" x 7 1/2", I alcohol washed with red and blue underpainting, then blocked in each with hard pastel.

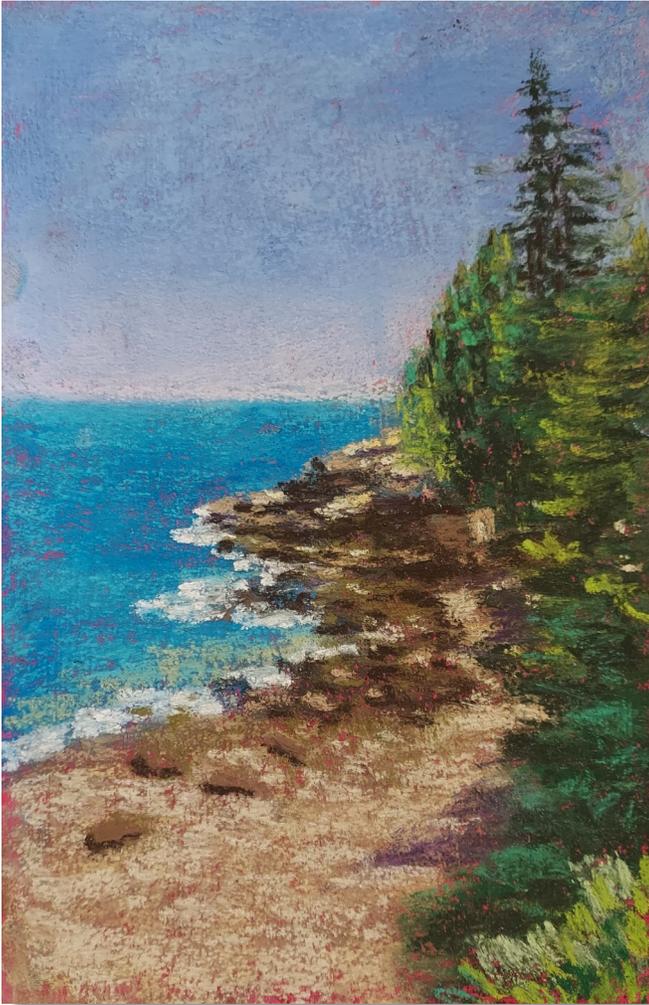
I built up both simultaneously, starting with the darks. I tried to not smother the underpainting to let some color show through the finished piece.

I found myself adjusting the colors and values as I switched from the red to the blue, subtle shifts but important to consider.

Another challenging and fun Adventure.



MaryAnn Grib, Gray, TN



Acadia Beach Scene

light and dark

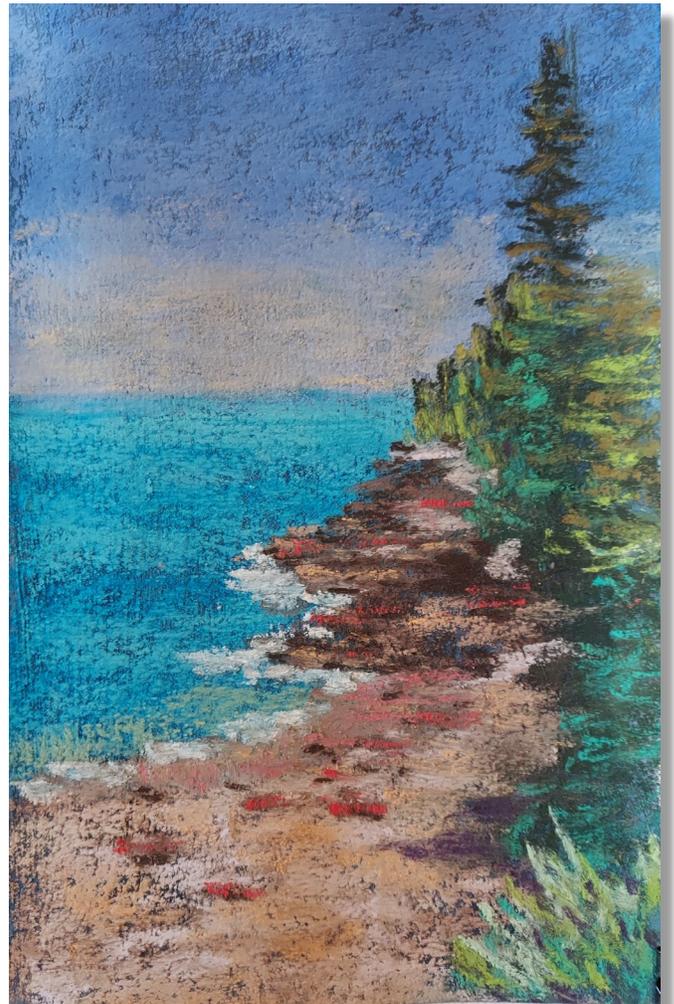
8 x 5

Title is Acadia Beach Scene light and dark. I should add that I probably would have done another painting with the dark ground and use more "adventurous" colors but I ran out of time. I'll make that another project for another day.

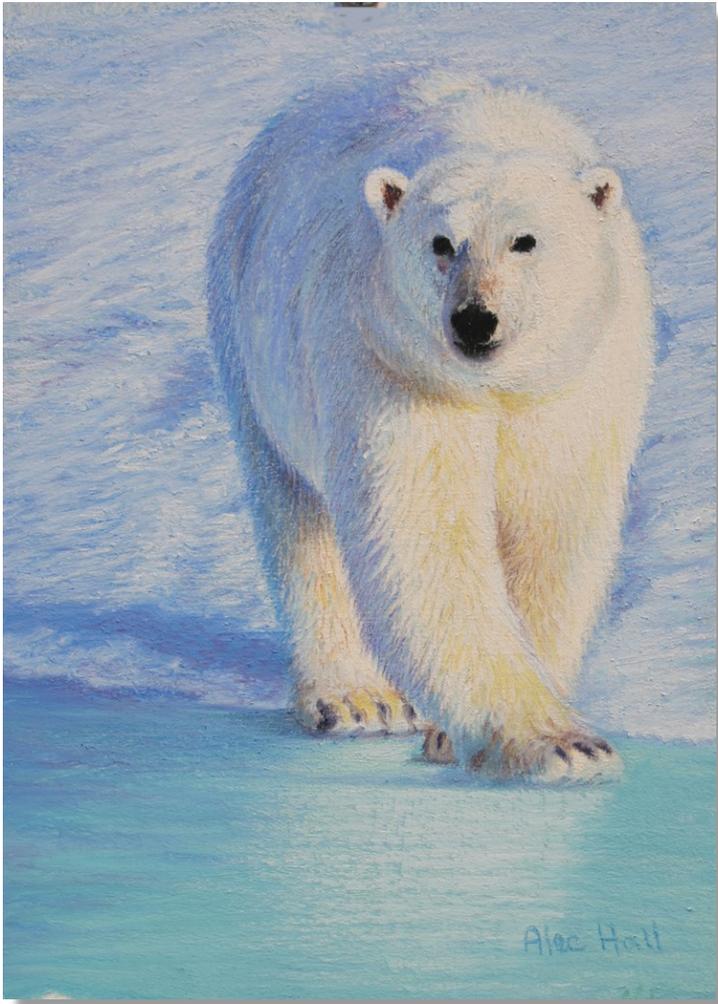
I used a reference photo I borrowed from a friend because it was beautiful and simple.

These were done on 5x8 multi media paper primed with clear gesso and underpaintings were done with magenta and indigo acrylic inks.

I found the magenta underpainting gave the pastel a brighter look. The one with the blue underpainting definitely toned the painting down so I was inclined to add some brighter highlights.



Alec Hall, Hendersonville



Here are my paintings for Adventure C-6: Red vs Blue

The subjects are the same but the images are different. I used Burnt Sienna as my red underpainting and light Cobalt Blue for the other one. This is an excellent exercise to remind us how color (hue, chroma and temperature) will influence the mood/feeling of a painting.

Title 1: Artic Dawn

Title 2: Testing the Sea Ice

Size: 5" x 7" each

Surface: UART 500 grit

Pastels: Rembrandt, Great American, and Carb-Othello Pastel Pencils

Testing the Sea Ice
7 x 5

Artic Dawn
5 x 7



Mona Hearne, Matthews, NC

Here's my C-6 Red and Blue challenge entry. IT WAS FUN!

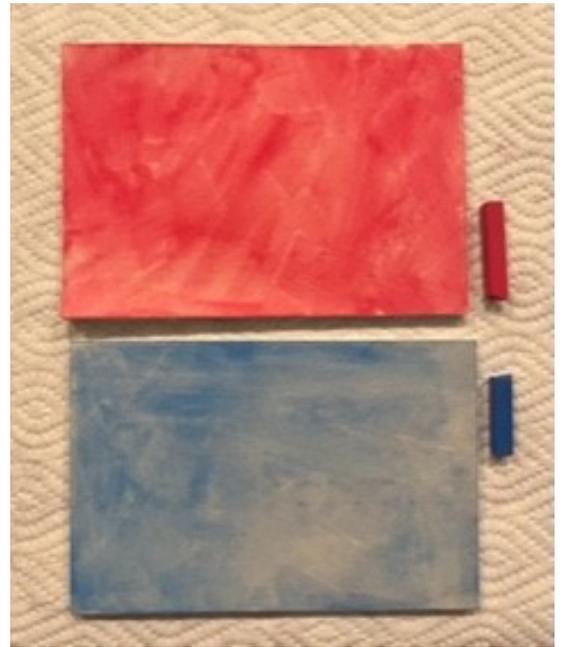
3 x 5's Uart 400. Limited palette. Used pastel pencils, too.

CHICKADEE

The little birdie is after one of Mike Beeman's

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO.

Joyfully, Mona



CHICKADEE
3 X 5

Anne Hudson, Lexington, KY



I have completed the 2 paintings (one red underpainting and one blue underpainting) utilizing the same reference photo (see attached).

I used Jack Richeson darks II blocks for the underpaintings, then used mostly Rembrandt pastels then Terry Lugwig at the end. I used the same colors for both paintings. I enjoyed the paintings up until I realized I had added too much pastels, which kept me from achieving the translucent look at the tips of the petals I desired.

The paintings are 6x8" on Uart 500 sanded paper.

Thank you again for the opportunity to join the challenge. These monthly exercises are a great way to push us to learn and create better results in our paintings.

Kathy Hutchinson, Rutherfordton, NC

I started by doing each painting at the same stage. Just working back and forth.



For the last stages I had to change that as the paper color and differing values required using different colors in areas. I took the time to negative paint the background on the blue paper to correct a few areas. I will probably do some background work on the other painting as well.

This was a good challenge as I chose a subject with plenty of warm and cool colors -a challenge in and of itself. This exercise revealed the ways it is necessary to alter my choice of colors in a number of circumstances..

Done on Hazy blue and raw sienna Colourfix.

Using various pastels and some pastel pencil.

My sources were various copy-right free photos and pictures.



This Makes Me Crabby 6 x 9

Lynn Jackson, Brevard, NC

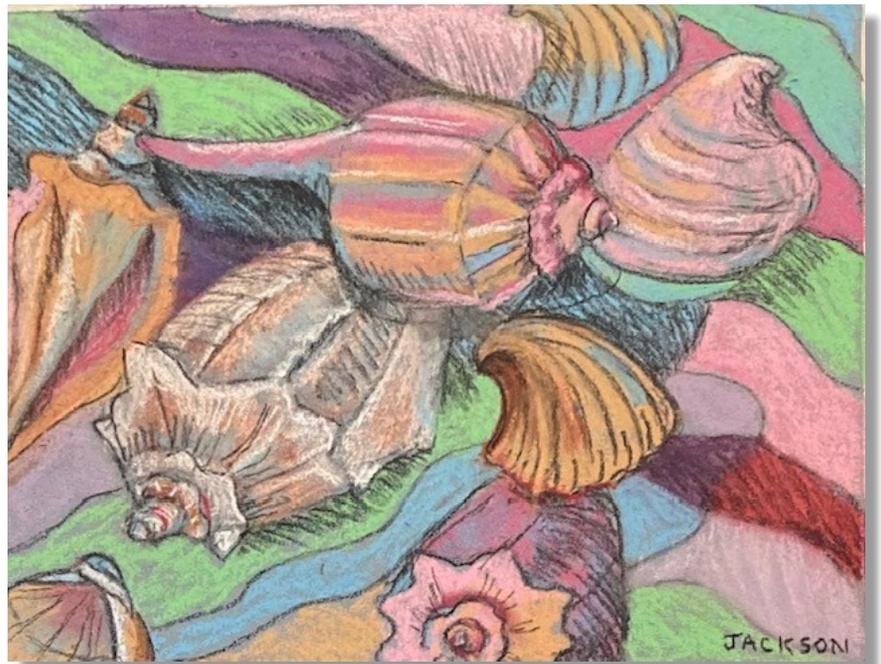
The pastel on top was done on orange paper as I didn't have red paper. It made the picture warmer than the second one done on blue paper. The colors on the blue paper seem brighter to me as the orange one seems less subtle(has almost a glow to it). I used the same colors on each one. I'm sure a red paper would have set up more of a contrast.

I used sanded Canson pastel paper. First time using it and I like it better than the regular Canson pastel paper.

Thanks for the challenge!



Seascapes 8 x 10



Karen Knaub, Lake Lure

Thank you for another adventure. I took a 16x12 pastel paper and divided in half for this. Alcohol washed underpainting. I always do an underpainting so I wasn't surprised at these results. I definitely like the red one better or think it stands out more. I always appreciate the effort you put into these challenges. Thank you



Cindy Lidd, Garner, NC

Attached are my two paintings, both on uart400, River Scene in Red, and River Scene in Blue; the painting in red is a little more dramatic, I think.

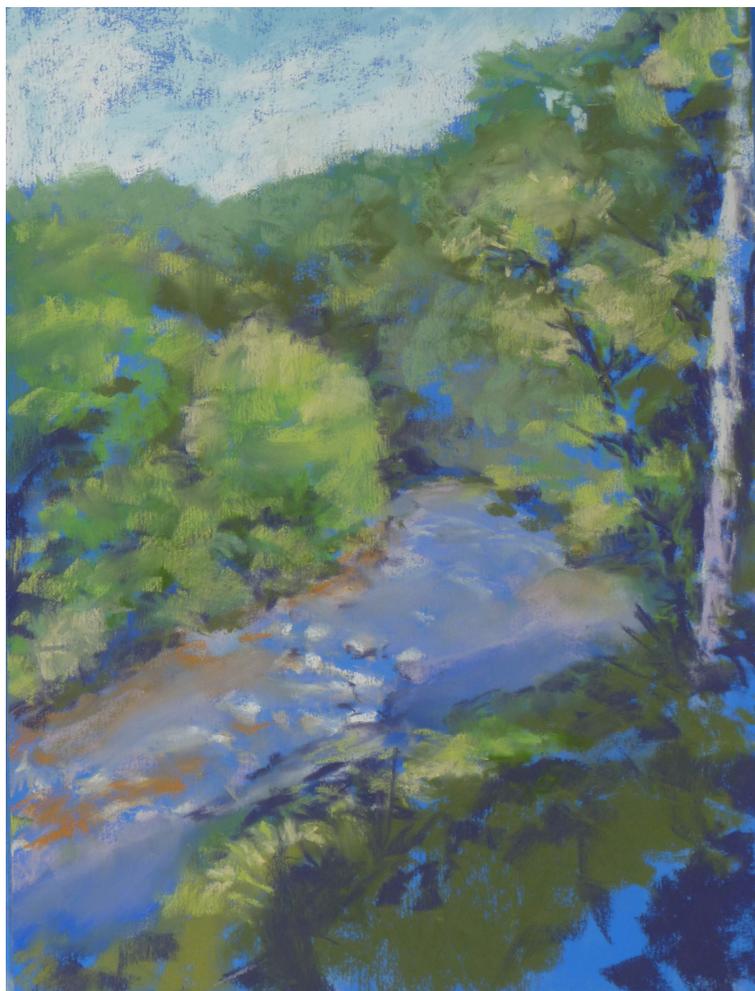
The blue one is a 9x12 and the red painting is s 6x8.

It makes you really consider what color your wash should be.

Thanks for the challenge.

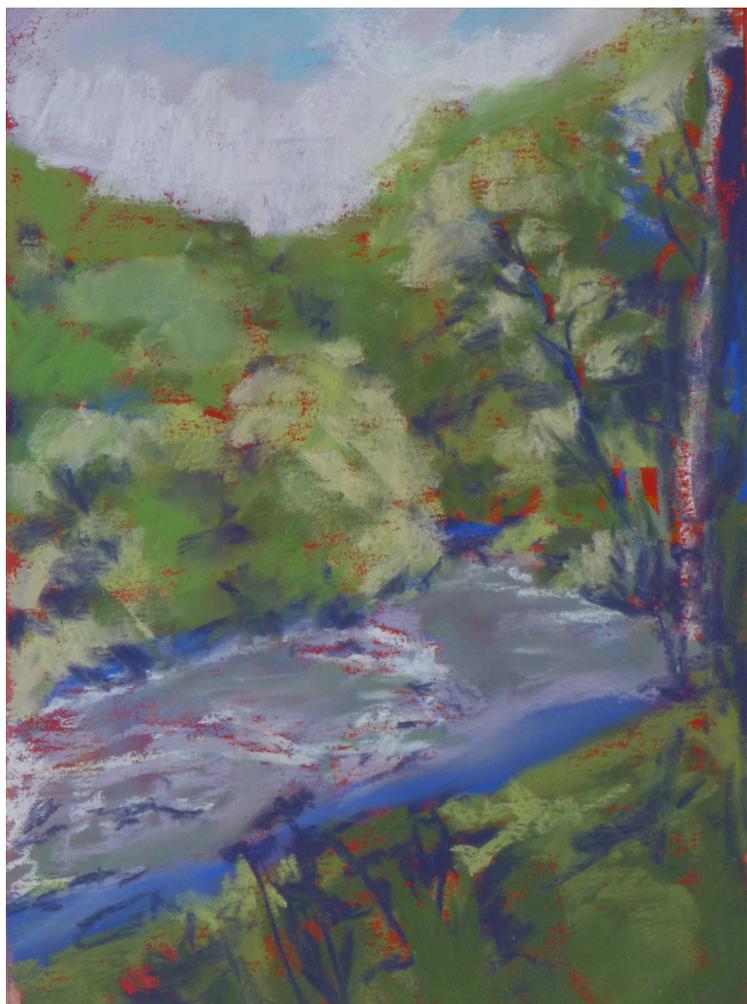
River Scene in Blue

12 x 9



River Scene in Red

8 x 6



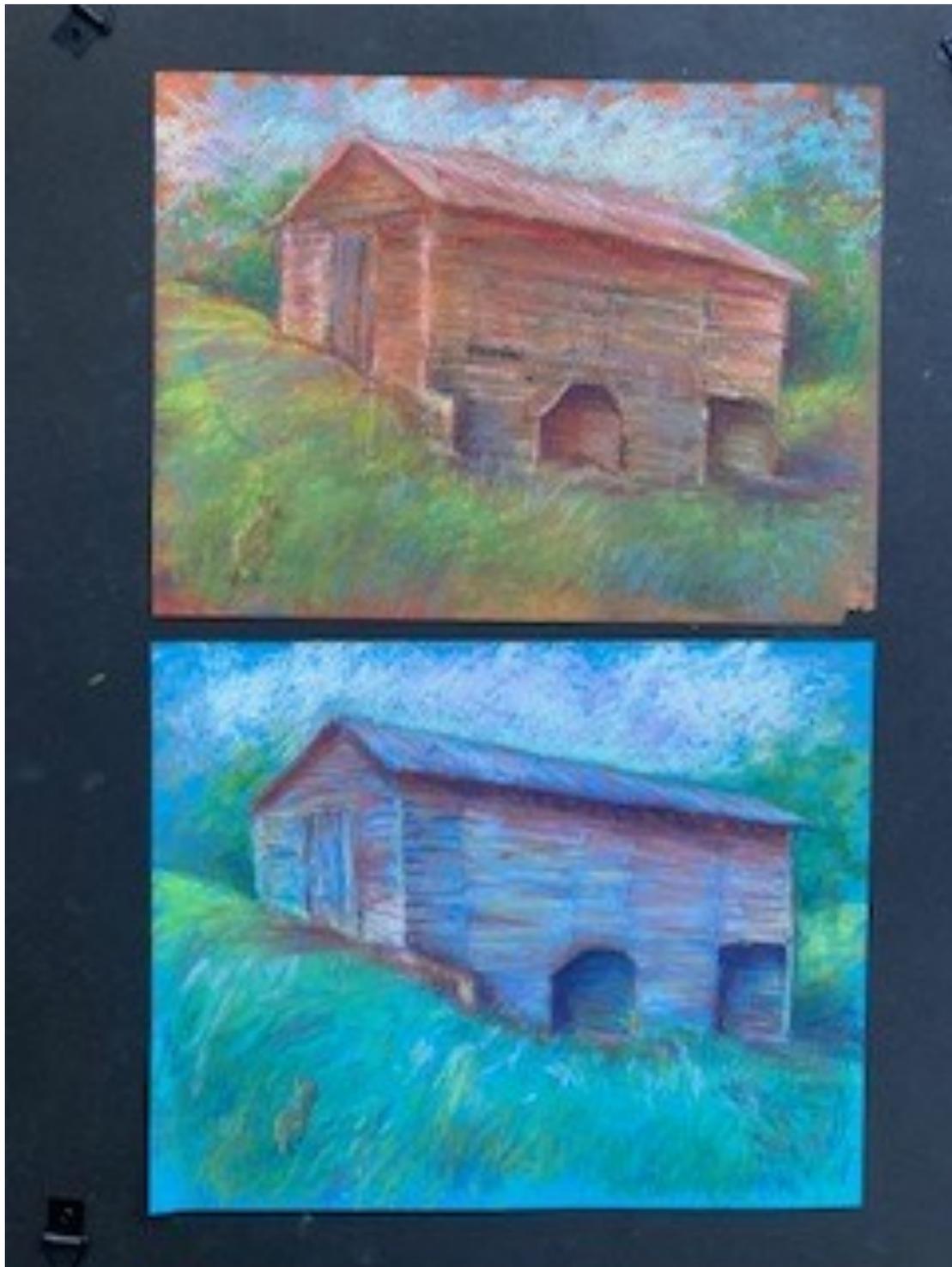
Margaret V Lyn-Soroken, Black Mountain

Title: Barn study

Size: 8x10

Medium: pastel/color paper

Appreciated exercise....

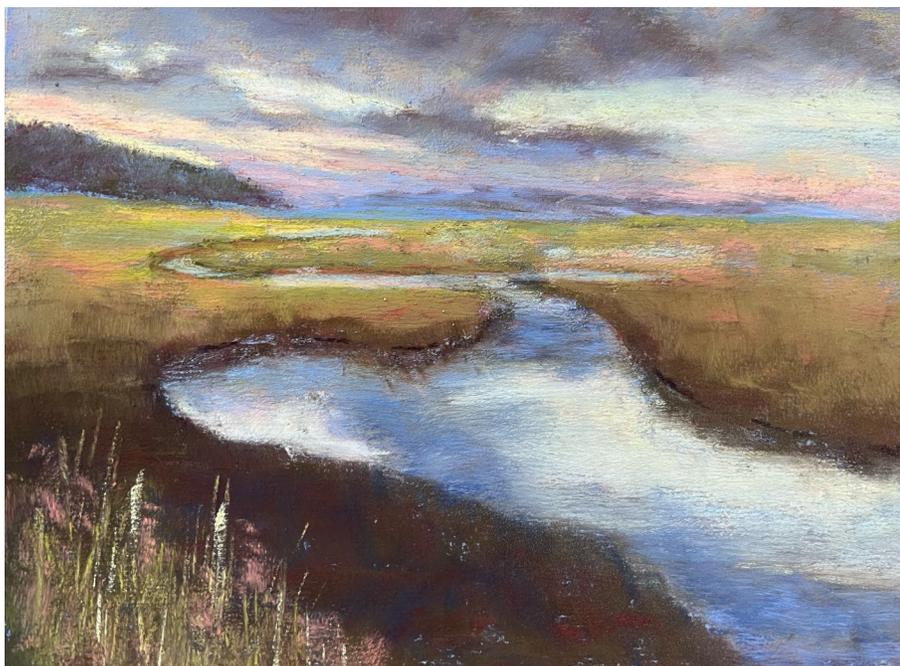


Andrea Stutesman, Black Mountain

I am vacationing in Washington state with very minimal supplies. I brought them just to complete the challenge. I only brought 2 pieces of paper.

These are obviously quick studies that I'll have to work on when I get home.

The subjects here are quite diverse. I chose a marsh scene.



Marsh with blue underpainting
9 x 12



Marsh with red underpainting
9 x 12

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