

How-To Make Your Own Soft Pastels and Marble Dust Surface

An Artist Guide to Making Pastels and Marble Dust Paper

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An Artist Guide To Making Pastels And Mable Dust Paper



Diane Dobson.Barton

2005 edition

Introduction

Pastels are a wonderful art material with a rich history. Once you begin to use pastels, it will not take long to learn the many benefits the medium brings to the studio. Before you even put pastel to paper there is the lure of the wonderful bright colors, and textures. But what if you need a pastel in a color that is not easily available? Or just more pastel than the traditional pastel sticks offer? Or what if you simply cannot afford to go out and buy certain colors, either due to financial situation or location? This is where this book goes into the studio with you, and helps you begin making the pastels that YOU need. You get to have the control, instead of an anonymous manufacturer in a plant far, far away.

Pastels required no mediums, no drying time or color change, no fading, no varnishing and are durable for centuries with no deterioration. If you make sure to properly frame your pastels under glass and have used archival materials, you can create a piece that can last for centuries. You have at your fingertips a medium that will cover areas quickly, that you can use as a drawing or painting tool. Any mistake you make can be fixed with the use of a kneaded eraser, or added tooth with spraying fixative. And if all this isn't enough reason to use pastel, when it comes to cleanup, it can be as simple as wiping up the dust that has settled on any nearby surfaces.

Ok, let's begin . . .

Pastels are made by adding a binder, which is usually gum tragacanth, to a pigment. The softness of the pastel is determined by the amount of binder added. So let's begin getting your materials together and you on the road to more control over what materials you use to create artworks that express your own unique personal artistic needs.

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