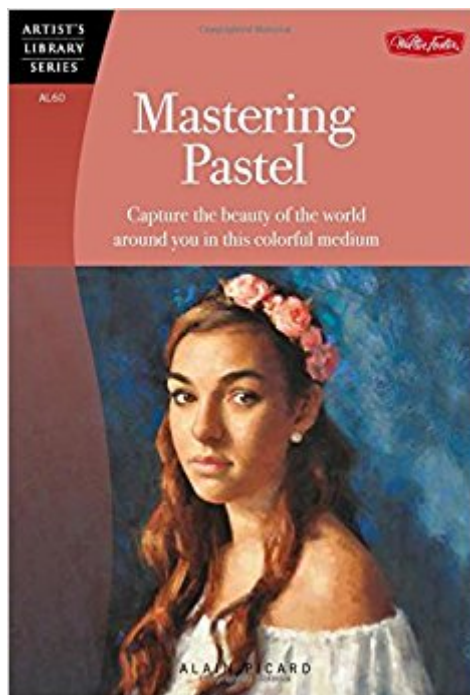




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Mastering Pastel: Capture The Beauty Of The World Around You In This Colorful Medium (Artist's Library)



Synopsis

In this new addition to the Artist's Library series, talented master artist, Alain Picard, guides the reader through an exploration of this unique medium and its myriad uses. After an introduction to tools and materials, readers will learn how to use various pastel techniques, including hatching, crosshatching, and stippling, to create depth and dimension in their artwork. Readers will also find basic information on color theory and how to use color to elicit emotion, portray mood or time of day, and suggest depth and distance. Throughout the course of the book, aspiring pastel artists will learn how to use soft and hard pastels to achieve art that is bold and intense or delicate and soft. Easy step-by-step lessons cover a variety of subject matter, including landscapes, portraits, and still lifes. Artist tips and tricks demonstrate how to blend and layer colors and create reflection, shadow, and soft and hard edges. With its breadth of professional instruction and variety of subjects to paint, Mastering Pastel is the perfect resource to start building artist proficiency in this enthralling and versatile medium.

Book Information

Series: Artist's Library

Paperback: 64 pages

Publisher: Walter Foster Publishing (April 29, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1600584314

ISBN-13: 978-1600584312

Product Dimensions: 6.5 x 0.1 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.3 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 12 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #615,515 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #60 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Drawing > Pastel](#) #1628 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Painting](#)

Customer Reviews

Alain Picard earned a BA in illustration from Western CT State University and went on to study at the Art Student's League in New York City. Picard cites Sargent, Degas, and Sorolla among his artistic influences. A love of light and beauty are immediately apparent in his pastel and oil paintings. Alain's work has been featured in such publication as The Artist's Magazine and The Pastel Journal. He has garnered top awards throughout the Northeast in esteemed exhibitions including the Portrait Society of America, the Hudson Valley Art Association, the Connecticut

Society of Portrait Artists, the Connecticut Pastel Society, and the Pastel Society of America. Alain is a signature member of the Pastel Society of America as well as the Connecticut Pastel Society, where he previously served as President. In 2004 The Artist's Magazine highlighted Alain as one of 20 contemporary artists "On the Rise." He later won the Best Portfolio Award at the 2009 Portrait Society of America Conference in Washington, D.C. A frequent workshop instructor and demonstrator for art associations, schools, galleries, and museums, Alain was recently invited to demonstrate a portrait in pastel at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. He lives with his wife and two sons in Southbury, Connecticut. Visit www.picardstudio.com.

Great teacher and very clear information

Good basic book, coordinates well with his video.

Pleased with my purchase

RIGHT ON TIME AND EXACTLY AS DESCRIBED !

Very good

It was fascinating to read about the process of one of my favorite artists, Alain Picard. In his latest book, *Mastering Pastel*, he clearly discusses materials, reference photographs, mounting methods, under paintings, pastel application and techniques, doing commissioned work, organizing your color palette and much more. I loved to hear how much thought, planning and consideration goes into each pastel that he does. Normally we have the pleasure of taking in the finished product of his astonishingly beautiful work, with its confident, dramatic strokes, whether it is a portrait, still life or landscape. In this book, Alain takes us, the artists, through the process from initial thumbnail, to under painting, to first marks, all the way to the glorious finished painting. He shows us the process within all three genres, even indicating some correction he does of the piece at the end. Throughout the book, Alain also generously gives the reader helpful artist's tips. I thoroughly enjoyed Alain Picard's book, *Mastering Pastel*, and, as a pastel artist myself, I would certainly recommend it for the aspiring artist to take your pastel work to the next level. Adrian Giuliani, PSA

I didn't bought it for myself, my customer was pleased with the product though, so I am guessing

everything was as she desired!

In very compact form, Alain Picard distills years of experience in clear approachable language with lots of helpful tips. Any artist looking to up their pastel game should check out this book, which packs a tremendous amount of information into its relatively brief space. Picard starts with an all-encompassing introduction to the medium, which will bring the beginner up to speed as simply as possible without being overwhelming. The section on pastel techniques, covering everything from stroke direction to pressure to blending effects is the most specific and helpful that I have seen anywhere. Throughout the book, Picard excels at combining specific, clear explanations with images to illustrate his points. Mastering Pastel also has a lot to offer the more experienced artist: useful observations, hard-won tips and interesting approaches appear on every page. Following the beginning section, the book consists of a series of step by step demonstrations of one lovely painting after another: portrait, still life, landscape, using a variety of underpainting techniques (watercolor, toned paper, dark, etc.) Each demo is valuable not just for the developing progress with each image, but for the artistic journey the artist shares as he creates each painting. Picard takes us through his plans, improvisations, assessments and corrections as he moves through the painting process. As an experienced painter, this look into the creative process of another artist was most interesting to me. The demos are full of wonderful gems: on the artist's thought process (why the vase of flowers sits to one side); on how to compose (cropping a reference photo to best effect); on how to make adjustments when necessary (why a building in a landscape foreground disappears in the painting's final stages); on how to tell when a painting is finished. Mastering Pastel is clearly written by a good teacher. Each page is packed with information and helpful observations, and written in an intelligent, encouraging and engaging tone. This book is an excellent primer on pastel which I would recommend to anyone looking to further their pastel know-how. Jeanne Rosier Smith, PSA, IAPS-MC

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