



STEVE HILL JULY 2026

Pan Pastels are the focus of this workshop and will be used every day!

I find them very useful for soft distant shapes, forms and colors including all skies, fog, mist, clouds, mountains, trees, water-in-motion, transparent water, water standing still, large ground areas and secret buildings of the mystical Skagit Valley plus painting the native elephants hiding in the grass.

The new 30 pure color Pan Pastel set is great for a complete range of primary, secondary and some tertiary colors - enough to do anything you need for "pure" color in any landscape painting.

Augmented with Individual Sky and Atmosphere tints as follows:

220.8 Hansa Yellow Tint
250.8 Diarylide Yellow Tint
620.8 Phthalo Green Tint
580.8 Turquoise Tint
560.7 Pthalo Blue Tint
530.8 Cerulean Blue Tint
520.8 Ultramarine Blue Tint
470.8 Violet Tint
280.8 Orange Tint

A PanPastel tray to organize and store your tints and any add'l colors you may want:
I prefer the 20 empty tray.

Be sure to have the following "mixed shapes" Sofft Tools.

Sponge Angle Flat, Sponge Angle Round - these come in packages of two, very handy plus they last for decades! Sponge Mix-4 (finger-sized shapes).1 pkg

Sofft Tool Personal Note: the 30 pure color set comes with a few little plastic handled "sofft tools, which resemble paint brushes, with very small removable pad covers in all shapes. You won't be using these in my landscape workshops, because they serve better for painting "details" as in portrait work, animal fur/hair or cats whiskers, miniature robot feet, etc.

Hard and Soft Pastel Sticks Note: If you already have hard and soft pastel sticks, you're home free! If not, here's what I recommend after thousands of days of experience over the past 25 years!

Hard Pastels: Either the Nu Pastel 36 color set.
Or the Creta Color set of 24 will work for starters

Soft Pastels:

I now highly recommend any of the Blue Earth Pastel sets over all other brands. They have several, but even the "Nomad" or "Drifter" set will get you started with almost every color and value needed for northwest landscape painting. You can add to these sets on Day 1, with a few sticks of wild and crazy colors, as you see fit.

Pastel Papers/Boards:

9x12 pads will work for everything you'll need in my workshops.

I use: Sennelier La Carte Card, La Carte multi-media, Pastel Premier, Art Spectrum Colourfix for great textured surfaces, Any other brands for less texture are o.k., as well. You will want to experiment and try as many surfaces as you can.

FOR PLEIN AIR WORKSHOPS:

You will need a good, sturdy, stand-alone field easel, like a French Easel or my personal fave, Mabef Field Easel, for lightweight portability, strength and longevity. I own over one dozen easel set-ups, and use my Mabef field easel 95% of the time. Mine is 25 years old and I wouldn't trade it for any other easel out there. Pochade boxes will work, too (if you have one) but I prefer the larger easel, as it allows your hand room to do the work, at the bottom of the pastel paper and adjusts to almost any height.

<https://www.dakotapastels.com/product/mabef-tripod-field-easel?cat=54>

A backing board (black gatorfoam 16x20 is the perfect size) miscellaneous drawing tools like a sketchbook, soft pencil, tape to attach pastel papers (I use 1-2" wide blue house painters tape).

Composition finders with ruby-lith for isolating values into simple shapes (3-in1 viewfinders are perfect)!

I stopped using umbrellas about 10 years ago, because they should be better named as sail boats when (not if) you encounter wind. A wide brimmed hat (or baseball cap) will shade your eyes very effectively. However if you already have an umbrella and want to use it, go for it . . . but be cautious about never stepping more than arm's length from your easel, once it's set-up.

Drinking water, Sun screen, multi-layered clothing and an apron with pockets are indispensable for **plein air**.

You may purchase your art supplies at Dakota Art Pastels at an additional workshop discount of 10%. Call us at 888-345-0067 two weeks before class and we will have your order ready the day of registration.