



NEWSLETTER



Departments

News from the President p.1

In this section President Robin McCondiche provides updates about the club.

Meet Our Members p.2

This is an opportunity for members to get to know each other. Please submit the member questionnaire to marienwt@aol.com so that you can be included in this section.

Upcoming Events p. 2

This section provides information about and links to workshops, artist opportunities, gallery events, etc. If you are aware of any events, please send your information to marienwt@aol.com

Pastel Articles pp. 3-6

This section provides information about artists, techniques, or any topic that might be of interest to our members. If you are interested in writing an article, or if you have a suggestion for a topic, please email marienwt@aol.com and write "Newsletter-Article" in the subject.

Member Accomplishments pp. 7-12

This is a section to celebrate the accomplishments of our members, or to provide photos, tips or suggestions. If you have been featured in a gallery, have won a recent competition, or have a tip, please send the information to Marie Costanza at marienwt@aol.com

Newsletter Editor:

Marie Costanza

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A note from our President, Robin McCondiche

Hey there, everyone! Happy Halloween! (and before you know it....Happy Thanksgiving too!)

Our big news is welcoming Kirt Lapham to the PSWNY Board. Kirt will be a great addition to the Board.

After his nomination, the membership voted Kirt in with 32 'yes' votes. Every vote received was an enthusiastic YES. (There were 15 non voting members.)

I hope you have been busy working on your October challenge of the limited strokes pastel. Please post your creation on the website Members Forum ([CLICK HERE.](#)) Also, please send your image (including the number of strokes) to Denise Rizzo. Denise will send a member blast out with all the images. I'm looking forward to seeing what everyone has done! This distant camaraderie is a fun way to stay connected during the Pandemic.

Jay Costanza continues his patient steps towards PSWNY officially becoming a not-for profit organization. Oh THANK YOU, JAY!

Aline Ordman has confirmed her dates for her PSWNY workshop for April 30-May 3, 2021. All of us are hoping this will be in person; however, if that is not possible, Aline has agreed to offer an online workshop. Registration will open early in 2021.

I know Denise Rizzo is looking for your recent endeavors to present an updated virtual gallery. It's uplifting and encouraging to see what each of you has been working on.

Looking forward to when we can get together in person. Stay well and stay creative.

Robin

MONTHLY PSWNY CHALLENGES

Recently the PSWNY began its Monthly Challenge opportunity to provide a way for members to connect during COVID. The first challenge was to paint a moonlight scene based on a photo of Lake Ontario. The current challenge is to create a painting of 200 or fewer strokes. Photos of member challenges will be included in the January/February newsletter. If you have participated, please send a copy of your work to marienwt@aol.com. Additional information about the challenges are emailed from the person hosting the challenge.



2020 PSWNY ONLINE EXHIBITION

For information, click here:

Online Exhibition

CALL TO ARTISTS:

The Crooked Tree Arts Center in Petroskey, MI "Great"

The Great Lakes are powerful, life-sustaining resources. Their vastness, connectedness, and clarity suggest a physical manifestation of greatness.

This exhibition asks Great Lakes-area artists to share their original works of art that reflect on the theme "Great."

Accepted works will demonstrate a meaningful connection or response to the Great Lakes. Artists are encouraged to consider the theme broadly and creatively.

For information, click here:

<https://www.crookedtree.org/call-for-artists/call-entry-great-juried-all-media-exhibition>

DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 30, 2020

Members Virtual Gallery

To view, click here: [Virtual Gallery](#)

To participate, email a photo to Denise Rizzo drizzo28@gmail.com

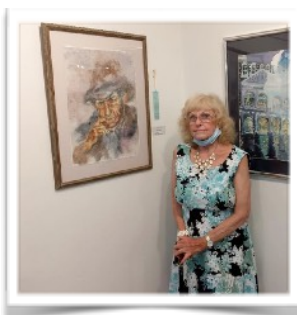
You may only participate if you have paid your 2020 dues.

Upcoming Workshop:

Aline Ordman
April 30- May2, 2021

To view her website, click here:

<http://alineordman.com/>



MEET OUR MEMBERS

Featuring: Kathy Houston

Kathy has been a member of PSWNY since its inception. She recalls how enjoyable the meetings and potluck dinners were when members were able to

gather and share information at Suzi's house.

Kathy has been interested in art since her high school years. During those years she would draw and paint animals and fashion designs. She especially enjoyed making geometric colored patterns using a compass while doing her math homework. An additional fond memory was when she illustrated the Grand National Steeplechase in Aintree, England for a high school English term paper. For 27.5 years Kathy taught all levels of art in public schools, including various electives such as Drawing and Painting; 3-D, including clay and wood assemblage; printmaking; and textile design. Kathy was able to take various art electives at RIT and Brockport, but she says she "learned quite a bit and gained a lot of experience while teaching these very specific courses."

Currently, Kathy creates in her studio, where she has continued to draw and paint animals, particularly horses. Additionally, she enjoys creating human portraits, landscapes and seascapes. Kathy says that she likes to try various brands of hard and soft pastels and that pastel premium has replaced Kitty Wallace, Color fix (Australian) and UArt. Some of her favorite creations are called *Gypsy* (a portrait of her German Shepherd), *Betrothed* (a depiction of two heads of horses in love), *Demelza and Child* (based on a character in the Poldark series on Masterpiece Theater), *Amazing Grace* (based on a photo she took-with permission-from an African American woman in a doctor's office) and *Cooper and Buddy* (commissioned works of her neighbor's boxers).

Kathy credits her development to the various PSWNY meetings with demos and informal critiques. Additionally, she has enjoyed demos for public by workshop artists, going to physical exhibitions of pastel work and some publications.

There are many rewarding aspects of pastel painting for Kathy. For example, she likes the direct color application that can be used during a broad stroke or the tip, which she compares to the tip of a palette knife. She also enjoys all the layering that is involved.

Kathy says that there are some challenges in pastel painting; for example, she points out that you have to be aware of where and when to apply the pastel. She also says that it's important not to reach over the top, which could result in smearing. Finally, it's important to tap off the extra dust.

Kathy is proud of the approximately 65 art awards she has won in various media styles and subjects including Honorable Mention, Juror, Best of Show, Most Creative Use of Materials and Popular Vote.

UART TIP

Pastel Pencils or Colored Pencils

By Denise Howard

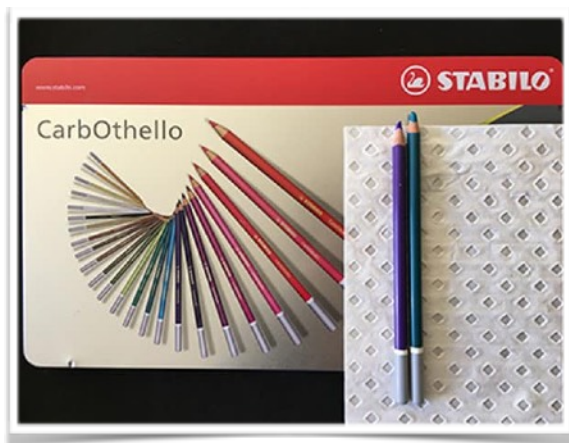
Source <https://www.uartpastelpaper.com/uart-tip-34/>

In my [UART Tip #25](#), I said: “Why use colored pencil rather than pastel pencil on UART? Less mess, and the option to frame under Plexiglas instead of glass.” If you are experimenting with media, you might have found that answer insufficient to help you decide whether one or the other is better for you. So, I’ll take this opportunity to do a little side-by-side comparison.

In general, the differences between pastel pencils and colored pencils are in some of the pigments used, and in the binder that holds the pigment core together. Pastel pencils (and stick pastels) are typically made with a very small amount of gum arabic, while colored pencils are made with a blend of vegetable oils and waxes. This makes a big difference in how they lay down on and adhere to a surface; pastel pigment has a weak hold and can be shaken, smudged, or blown off, while colored pencil pigment truly sticks. Some colored pencils have a drier consistency; these are so-called “oil-based” because their binder’s blend contains more oils than waxes. Others have a creamier consistency; these are so-called “wax-based” because their binder’s blend contains more waxes than oils. “Oil-based” pencils work very well on many of the same papers and surfaces that pastelists like, such as UART; “wax-based” pencils work, too, but a little less like pastels.

Note that the distinction between pastel pencils and colored pencils is very important to the Pastel Society of America and the Colored Pencil Society of America for their respective annual exhibitions, neither of which allows the other type of pencils.

For this exercise, I’m using Stabilo Carbothello pastel pencils, and Rembrandt Lyra Polycolor colored pencils (which are “oil-based”), and UART 600 grit Sanded Pastel Paper

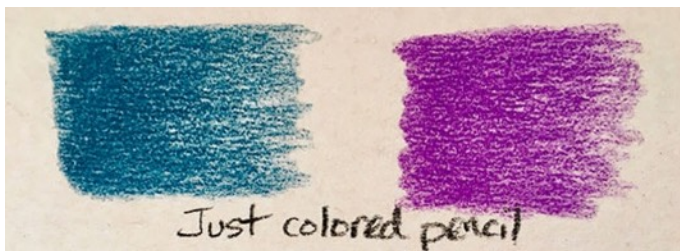


For each, I'll show the results of: pencils only; smudged with my finger; blended with solvent; white marks made on top; and a blend between two colors via pencil strokes alone. For each swatch, I consistently created a heavy application on the left side to a medium application on the right side.



PENCILS ALONE

The difference in softness is immediately obvious when you touch the pencils to the UART paper. Barely any pressure is needed for saturation with the pastel pencils, and quite a bit of residue powder is produced. The colored pencil sticks to the paper's tooth better, more pressure is needed for saturation, and it produces less residue powder.



SMUDGED WITH FINGER

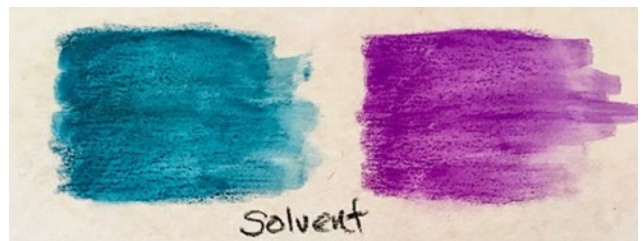
I lightly swiped my index finger from left to right across each swatch a few times. The pastel pencil smudged very easily, and quite a bit of pigment lifted off on my finger. This can be a good thing if you like to use your fingers as blending tools, but it also means you have

to be very careful to avoid accidental contact! The colored pencil smudged some, and some lifted off on my finger, but not nearly as much as the pastel.

BLENDED WITH SOLVENT



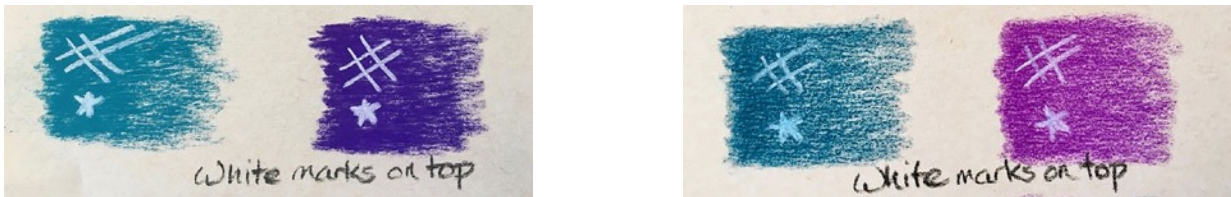
I moistened a small flat brush with Gamsol and swiped it from left to right across each swatch a few times. (Alcohol works, too.) Since the pastel powder doesn't cling to the tooth, it's easy to produce a painterly or watercolor effect. The colored pencil does stick some, so I got a grittier-looking result.



With more solvent I could completely dissolve the binder, but that would dilute the color saturation, too. Depending on the subject matter, I might actually want this gritty effect!

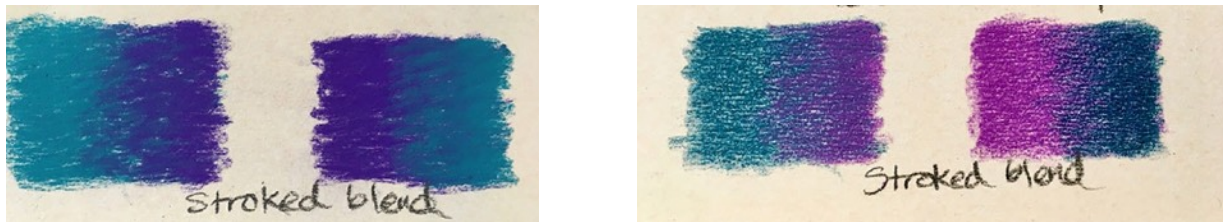
WHITE MARKS ON TOP

With pastel pencils, it's very easy to make a strong white mark atop a dark color, and in fact pastelists usually work from dark to light. One of the hardest things to get used to when learning to use colored pencil is that achieving strong light colors atop dark colors is almost impossible, so that one must work from light to dark, reserving the lightest spots (such as eye reflections and cat whiskers). This is because colored pencil is by nature more transparent. This example makes the issue clear! Some artists choose to work around this by using a gel pen or gouache to add highlights at the end, but that changes the work from pure colored pencil to mixed media.



BLENDED WITH PENCIL STROKES

I put about the same amount of work into each swatch, stroking the colors atop each other to create a transition. A smooth, paint-like transition from one color to another is pretty easy with pastel pencils. It's doable with colored pencil, but requires more work to accomplish before the paper runs out of tooth. This is why I prefer 600 grit over 800 grit for my colored pencil work. Some colored pencil artists use 400 or 500 grit.

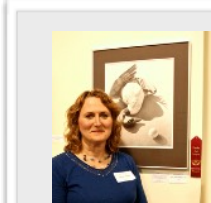
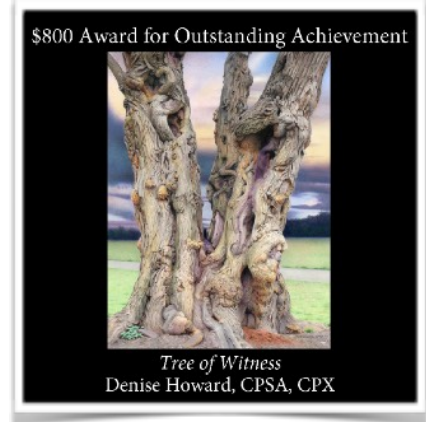


SUMMARY

There are, of course, other ways of blending pastels and colored pencils, but they are more specific to each. I hope these comparisons give you a better idea of the way each responds to the techniques I used, and it might help you decide which type of pencil to use to produce the result you want for a given project.



A Glimpse of Denise's art:



Visit Denise's website:
www.denisejhowardart.com



MEMBER ACCOMPLISHMENTS and PAINT OUTS



Unaware, by **Nancy Mariani**

Nancy Mariani received the Best of Show Award for her piece entitled *Unaware* at the Fall Exhibition in the Fine Arts League in October. The show was on display at the Carnegie Art Center in North Tonawanda, NY and on the Carnegie Art Center website. The show ends at the end of October.

Suzi Zefting-Kuhn is exhibiting her two lemur pastel paintings, *The Lookout* and *Little Miss Furia*, at the Mill Art Center, 61 N. Main Street in Honeoye Falls, NY. The exhibit is open from October 23- December 31, 2020.



The Lookout, by **Suzi Zefting-Kuhn**



Little Miss Furia, by **Suzi Zefting-Kuhn**

Linwood Gardens Paint Out



18th Great Worldwide Artist Paint Out: International Plein Air Painters Organization- DAY 1



18th Great Worldwide Artist Paint Out: International Plein Air Painters Organization- DAY 1



During the weekend of September 11-13, 2020, to celebrate the 18th Annual Worldwide Artist Paint Out, a local Paint Out was organized by Vice President Jay Costanza. The event took place at the Kent Park Arboretum in Webster, NY. Day 2 was co-hosted by Chris Metcalf. Painters attended from the following local art clubs: PSWNY, GRAPP, GVPAPA and RAC. Additionally, on Day 2, a guest artist from Buffalo, invited by Jeannette Pikturna, attended. The park with its pond, paths and gardens was a perfect setting for an end of the summer Paint Out.

18th Great Worldwide Artist Paint Out: International Plein Air Painters Organization -DAY 2



18th Great Worldwide Artist Paint Out: International Plein Air Painters Organization -DAY 2



PSWNY MEMBERS VIRTUAL GALLERY and MEMBERS FORUM AVAILABLE

The Members Virtual Gallery is where our Members Only slideshows are kept. The purpose is to be able to share our art with each other, so it also may include works-in-progress. It is password protected so only our members can see it. The Members Forum is designed for you to be able to post recent work and ask for feedback, post information about techniques you are trying or tips you've found. You can also post links to interesting articles, blogs or websites. It is also password protected.

To go to either of these pages, go to <https://pastelsocietyofwesternnewyork.com/> and click on the page in the menu to the right.

Please take a look and start posting to see if we like how this works. If you have any problems with the page, please email Denise at drizzo28@gmail.com

Congratulations to Karlene VanDeusen

Karlene VanDeusen is participating in the following holiday shows:

- She has 2 pastels hanging at **The Village Gallery of Caledonia 4th Annual Art Exhibit**, November 6-December 19. A reception will be held for the community from 5-8 pm on Friday, December 4 and Sunday, December 20.
- Karlene has done 3 oil paintings for the **Genesee Valley 100**, a fundraiser "To protect the habitat, open space, and farmland of the Genesee Valley region. 100 artist have painted 100 paintings on 12 x 12 gallery wrapped canvas. The fun begins on November 18 at the Silver Lake Brewing Company in Perry, NY. Visit Perry to view the Genesee Valley 100: A Community Painting Project from November 18-December 31, 2020 during their normal business hours or see the paintings online. [CLICK HERE](#)
- **Nigra Arts Center Fall/Winter Art Show** with 2 pastels and a watercolor included in this juried show. Show dates: November 12, 2020- January 22, 2021 with an Opening Reception on Thursday, 11/19/20, 3-7 pm at the Paul Nigra Center for Creative Arts, 2736 State Highway 30, Gloversville, NY.
- **Celebration at the Arts Center of Penn Yann**, including 3 of Karlene's pastels at 127 Main Street, Penn Yann, from November 9-January 3, 2021.

Art Class Opportunities Offered by PSWNY Member Colette Savage

Colette Savage is excited to announce that she will be teaching pastel painting virtually for the first time this winter. Classes will be held in cooperation with the Irondequoit Community Education and promise to be a new and exciting way to share information about the wonderful medium of pastel via the internet. Information about the class can be found in the online course catalog on the West Irondequoit Community Education website: https://www.westirondequoit.org/parents_community/community_education

Colette continues to teach Pastel Painting in person at the Art Stop LLC. Classes are held upstairs in the building located at the Four Corners in Penfield. The next session will be starting soon. Click here for information: <http://artstopllc.com/>

Colette has been producing and uploading video demonstrations of herself working in pastel. Technical challenges have been overcome and the videos offer some insights into how Colette works in pastel. These videos are on YouTube and can be found by typing Colette Savage in the search bar. If you watch them, Colette would appreciate some feedback to help make them better in the future. To view one of Colette's videos, click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f2leCvVT03Q&feature=youtu.be>