



# DAKOTA ART CENTER

## STEVE HILL JULY 13-15, 2017

You will need the following:

A sturdy stand-alone portable easel to hold your support board and your pastels.

There are several out there, but I do recommend the Mabef easel that Dakota has had modified to hold a back pack size box of pastels (see their web site) and a Dakota Pastel Box with memory foam inserts in the box and glued to the clamp-down lids, to securely hold your pastels. A standard "French style" easel also works fine. I now have a new Dakota set-up and an older Heilmann pastel box, which also works great, but would now recommend the former set-up, as it is far less expensive and fits my travel suitcase or carry-on.

Whatever you bring, make sure it is sturdy enough to stand-up in a fair breeze and has a work surface like foam core, to support your pastel paper. You will also need tape (Artists' Tape is best) to hold your pastel paper to the board. Be sure to try-out your easel and pastel gear indoors, to be familiar with everything before you venture out, which includes set-up and take-down. Our first day will be indoors at Dakota, doing some basic stroke warm-up exercises, so that will give you one more op to practice before we hit the fields, riverbanks and roadways around the valley. You will be working vertically, so your easel needs to be large enough to stand-up above waist height.

An umbrella - to shade your work area and your palette of pastels in the same light. There are many "clamp-on" umbrellas - I use an Easy! (available only from the mfg), as it has an excellent adjustable clamp, doesn't drift, and is ventilated to hold against wind gusts. A less expensive "travel size" umbrella is sold that works o.k., but I prefer the stronger "Easy!" brand. There are also umbrellas that stick into the ground, but are very large and cumbersome for most travel, and blow over just as easily as any other type.

A good range of both soft and hard pastels . . . be sure to have enough of each to cover the basic color spectrum. RYB in the primaries, OVG in the secondary colors and a good range of neutrals. Use a color wheel and compare what you have with what you need. You only need a light, medium and dark value of each hue, as you will be able to "mix" any colors and values you don't have with just those. The best deal going is the Sennelier 120 stick "Half-stick" set for landscape. Other manufacturers' are selling equivalent sets these days (Art Spectrum, Rembrandt, Richeson, Unison, Great American, etc.). I hardly ever sort my sticks by brand anymore, as they ALL make great products and I now buy the half stick sets because they are such a bargain.

I also recommend a starter set of "Pan Pastels" and do almost all of my under-painting with those. They have great plastic palettes that organize the jars and make them easier to carry and use. Buy the basic landscape set, if you'd like to try using the Pans. They also come with sponge-like applicators that make very soft, (think blended edges) brush-like strokes.

Pastel Papers also run the gamut - I prefer tinted papers, in Sennelier La Carte, Art Spectrum, Canson "Touch" and Jack Richeson, as they have a textured surface that I like. There are probably 30 others out there, all with various textures and tints and they are all good. I prefer a mid-range value "tint" over white, as it gives me a better neutral starting point to work from. You can create your own values and tints on white paper, just by applying pastel in blended strokes with a rag or paper towel, as long as you do not fill the tooth of the paper too much. Dakota makes sets of paper samplers that I recommend buying, just to try-out various surfaces, colors and textures. The important thing is to experiment! Warning-the Sennelier La Carte (my personal favorite) cannot be touched by water, or the surface will dissolve, leaving the white card underneath fully exposed and impossible to hide. It severely limits use to very dry conditions, which do not always exist when painting out doors!

Sunblock, paper towels, a good brimmed hat, "Glove-in-a-Bottle" for your hands and layered clothing are all necessary for personal comfort and easy handling of pastels outdoors. Water, water, water - carry enough to last several hours to prevent dehydration. Think "portability" when choosing your set-up - you want something that has a good range of pastels and papers, but also packs easily. You will quickly learn to pare your gear down to something that fits only into a back-pack, sets-up easily and any extra gear (like tri-pods, umbrellas) can be carried under one arm, when travelling. If you are lucky enough to have a car to carry gear, you can always pack a little more and work out of the trunk, but most painting sites are seldom located within arm's length of a car.

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.