

Battle of the Artists! Street Painting Contest

May 19, 2018

Tips and techniques

Your media is pastels and asphalt. Pastels will be provided. These pastels have been chosen for their non-toxic properties, so no other pastels are permitted.

Arcadia Art Studio will take the reference photo you send us, and superimpose a grid on it. This grid will correspond to a grid on the street in which you will create your painting. The grids will be done before you arrive.

Wear old clothes! Pastels are messy and you will be sitting on the street. Baby wipes will be available for clean up, but only the washing machine will get pastel out of your clothes - maybe.

If you have never done a street painting before, these are the techniques we recommend:

1. Sweep any debris off your square before you begin work. Brooms provided.
2. Use your reference photo and grids to guide you in chalking out a rough outline of the complete image you are painting on the pavement.
4. Start anywhere, and begin coloring the image. The pastels will be crumbly and the texture of the asphalt will be very obvious at first. Work the pastel into the asphalt, using fingers or brushes in small areas and carpet squares in larger areas. At this point you can use the "dry" technique, the "wet" technique, or both.

Dry technique: Rubbing pastels onto dry pavement can give the artist more control over shading and depth. Rubbing tends to be hard on the hands, so latex gloves are being provided to help protect them. Carpet squares will also be provided to help rub pastels into larger areas of asphalt.

Wet technique: Same as above, except that you use wet fingers or wet carpet squares to rub the pastel into the asphalt; or you can wet the asphalt first then draw into the damp surface. This method is faster and attaches the pastels to the asphalt better, but there is some loss of color and detail. You can also mist the drawing with a spray bottle filled with water. Water provided, but not spray bottles.

5. Turn in any colors you are not using to the Artists' Tent. If you are missing or run out of certain colors, check at the tent or with other artists.
6. If you need to step or sit on an area of your drawing, use the provided cardboard to protect it.
7. Sign your work. If you've reproduced an image originally created by another artist, give the artist credit by noting his or her name.