

Playing with Colour – Pastel Painting

Tutor: Lindy Whitton

8 weeks Term 2 2026

Colour is one of the joys of painting with soft pastels and this term we will explore using colour effectively to create mood, atmosphere and visual impact in your paintings.

Each week I'll demonstrate a different technique or approach and I'll make sure you have individual support and guidance as you incorporate the ideas and techniques into your own paintings. There will be simple, effective and fun exercises and plenty of time to work on larger paintings.

Session structure

Each week there will be a different topic to explore which I will give you notes about before the session. Within this topic everyone will be encouraged to pursue their own interests in terms of painting subject matter although I'll also bring along reference material as further inspiration.

I'll demonstrate techniques/subjects of interest to the class during the sessions as well as spending plenty of time with individuals for one on one tuition and tutor critiques and the class will be encouraged to share their work and engage in constructive critiques.

Absolute beginners

If you're an absolute beginner please watch my YouTube channel videos Pastel Painting Course 1. Choosing your pastels, 2. Choosing your paper, 5. Setting up to paint, at www.youtube.com/lindywhittonstudio . This will give you an idea of my teaching style and is a good summary of the types of paper, pastels and other materials you will need.

Materials to bring

- pastel paper (Colourfix paper will available to buy at cost in class)
- any pastels you have (not oil pastels)
- charcoal or conte pastels for sketching
- paper towels or rags for cleaning your pastels and hands
- a rigid surface (eg mdf board, sheet of foamcore) to attach paper to
- masking tape or bulldog clips for attaching your paper to a board
- sketchbook or paper and pencils for planning sketches