

WILDLIFE AND CREATURES OF THE DEEP IN SOFT PASTELS with BARBARA ETTER 8 weeks on Tuesday 9.30 am to 12.30 pm

Dates: 17 October until 12 December 2023 (Not 21 November 2023)

This 8 week course will cover the basics of animal portraits (sea creatures and wildlife) particularly bringing an image or drawing to life with colour, detail and dimension. While the primary focus will be on pastels, the principles can apply to any medium.

Barbara will just have returned from a 10 day art retreat in Switzerland with international pastelist, Lyn Diefenbach. She will try and pass on valuable insights to students from the retreat, including the lessons learned regarding pastels and portraits.

The class will focus on the following:

- ☐ Choosing your picture and composition (where to find copyright images);
- ☐ Choosing your soft pastels: hard v soft, pencils v sticks, paper type (velour, Pastelmat, Pastelboard, Colourfix and other papers) and colours (making the colour work for you) – special curated animal sets e.g. Unison and Emma Colbert;
- ☐ Importance of close observation;
- ☐ How to progress your portrait – drawing up (including using the grid method) colours, layering, dark to light, when to do the background;
- ☐ Being brave and bold with colour – blocking out and underpainting;
- ☐ To blend or not to blend?!;
- ☐ Backgrounds – including using Pan Pastels – avoiding the “cut out” or halo look;
- ☐ Light and light/shade pattern: light side, shadow side, cast shadow and reflected light;
- ☐ Capturing mood!;
- ☐ Getting the right texture (fur, feathers, scales, skin). Using special texture effects on your paper, as with the waffle/honeycomb effect on Mei Tinte pastel paper;
- ☐ Different types of “fur” (guard hairs v underfur)- [31 Examples of Animals With Fur \(A to Z List with Pictures\) – Fauna Facts](#);
- ☐ Getting the important details right: ears, nose, mouth and eyes;
- ☐ The eye – if you get this wrong, you can ruin your whole portrait;
- ☐ Getting fur or feathers right – nap of fur (“Nap” can refer to any fabric that has a directional appearance or texture), directional movement, intersections;
- ☐ Fixing any mistakes – erasers, going over in pastel, Colourfix pastels in background colours;
- ☐ Setting aside and the final touches – highlights and reflections in the eyes, shadows, to fix or not to fix?;
- ☐ Knowing when to stop and the importance of restraint as well as suggestion/indication;
- ☐ Sharpening your pastel pencils;
- ☐ Where to find useful online tutorials;
- ☐ The pitfalls of using a fixative;
- ☐ Protecting and framing your portrait;
- ☐ Ongoing learning and useful animal artists to follow (eg. Jason Morgan and Emma Colbert in the UK).

Attendees will be provided with demonstrations and mentored in completing their own portraits as part of the course. Participants will be encouraged to develop their own style and to eventually try different approaches such as Pop Art.

The course will cater for the inexperienced as well as intermediate artists.

A number of reference books on animal portraits will also be available for perusal and inspiration.

You will need to bring:

- Reference photos – your own, or free photos from Pixabay <https://pixabay.com/en/photos/> or Wet Canvas – Reference Image Library under Content Areas <http://www.wetcanvas.com/RefLib/> or see Facebook eg. Free Reference Photos
- Desk easel and backing board (although these will also be available at the studio for use on the day)
- bulldog clips or masking tape
- Paper towel or hand towel
- Baby wipes to clean hands
- Kneadable eraser
- Ruler for grid method use
- Pastel pencil or something suitable for drawing on pastel paper
- Soft Pastels (not Oil Pastels), including pencils and sticks (in colours appropriate to your subject) and Pan Pastels and tools/applicators (if you have any)
- Quality Pastel papers or boards (including a variety of colours including black). I recommend Pastelmat (available in single sheets from Artery), Colourfix or Mei Tinte.
- Sharpeners suitable for pastels or knives
- Tracing paper and transfer paper (if required)
- White and black charcoal pencils (optional)
- Tortillons or stumps (optional) – used for blending

Good sources of soft pastel include:

Jacksons in the UK - <https://www.jacksonsart.com/colour/pastel/soft-pastel>

Senior Art in Melbourne - [senior art supplies melbourne - Search \(bing.com\)](#)

Soft Pastels Australia - <https://www.softpastels.com.au/>

Pastel supplies are also available from Artery in the Hobart CBD and Adart in North Hobart