

Art Materials Usage Guide

A guide to using the materials correctly during the workshop or on your own.

PASTELS

CHALK OIL

The belly (long side) and the tip of the oil pastel can be used. Create light to dark lines &/or areas by varying the pressure applied to the pastel. For large areas, begin with the belly of the pastel to create an undercoat; large areas can be filled to the desired opacity by then overlapping with more layers of pastel—try to keep the tip for smaller areas; this will also keep the development of crumbs to a minimum and reduce potential mess (try not brush away developing crumbs of pastel as they will create smudging). Blending of colour with oil pastels is accomplished through the overlapping of colours (layering).

Similarly, use both the belly and the tip of the chalk pastel.

Blending can be created by both layering of colours and smudging together with fingers. Create light to dark lines &/or areas by varying the pressure applied to the pastel. Never blow away pastel dust, use it or tap the drawing over scrap paper.

PAINT & BRUSHES

BRUSHES

Do not be aggressive with brushes. Use gentle strokes to create lines. Use less pressure rather than more. Try to keep the paint to the toe (tip) of the brush; this will cut down on waste and give you more control of the paint. When cleaning the brush in a tub of water, do not jam the bristles into the bottom of the container; this changes the shape of the brush and spreads bristles apart and fans the bristles making it harder to produce clean, crisp lines. Instead, after cleaning, reform into original shape and place handle down in a container to dry & store.

Tempera Paint Watercolour

Use water to load paint onto the brush. Don't dig into the paint. Gently manipulate brush in a circular motion in the paint, don't press too hard. Use palette to mix colours rather than mixing directly on blocks of paint. Don't forget to hold the palette down while mixing.

Watercolour is available in the tube or in cakes. It is designed to be translucent. To get a darker colour use less water, to get a lighter colour use more water. Don't scoop paint out, use more water to load paint onto brush. Take care of brushes, pinch lightly and twist to maintain shape.

CLAY PENCILS

By kneading & pinching the clay, you will help to remove air bubbles or pockets and increase the elasticity of the clay by warming it up. Be careful not to over manipulate the clay as this will dry it out.

Never:

- clap your hands together to remove dried clay
- blow away dried clay dust
- eat/lick your hands or the clay
- put clay tools in mouth.
- Overuse water (ex: dunking or spreading can make the clay too soft to work with)

In order to attach clay together use the score, and scrape method; don't just rip and stick a piece of clay on. By using pulling out techniques you can shape the clay.

Different pressures can create different qualities of line. Use both the side and the tip of the pencil. Don't use pink erasers as they leave marks, use gum or kneaded erasers. Fingers can be used to smudge. Practise the different techniques outlined.

PAPIER MACHE

Goop (or paste) can be made of flour and water or wallpaper paste and water. Use your fingers to spread the paste over thin pieces of paper; be careful to cover the entire piece and to remove excess paste over the container. Smooth the paste covered paper onto object trying to avoid air bubbles and wrinkles; ensure that you overlap pieces.

4 - 5 layers creates a good strong base.