Strathmore 2017 ONLINE WORKSHOP SERIES

TECHNIQUES IN PASTEL ART

with **Amy Pearce Stone** of **Her Art from the Attic**

Sunset Lake in Soft Pastels

Objective: Learn how to simply lay down and blend the delicate soft pastels to create a subtle and comforting landscape scene.

Supplies:

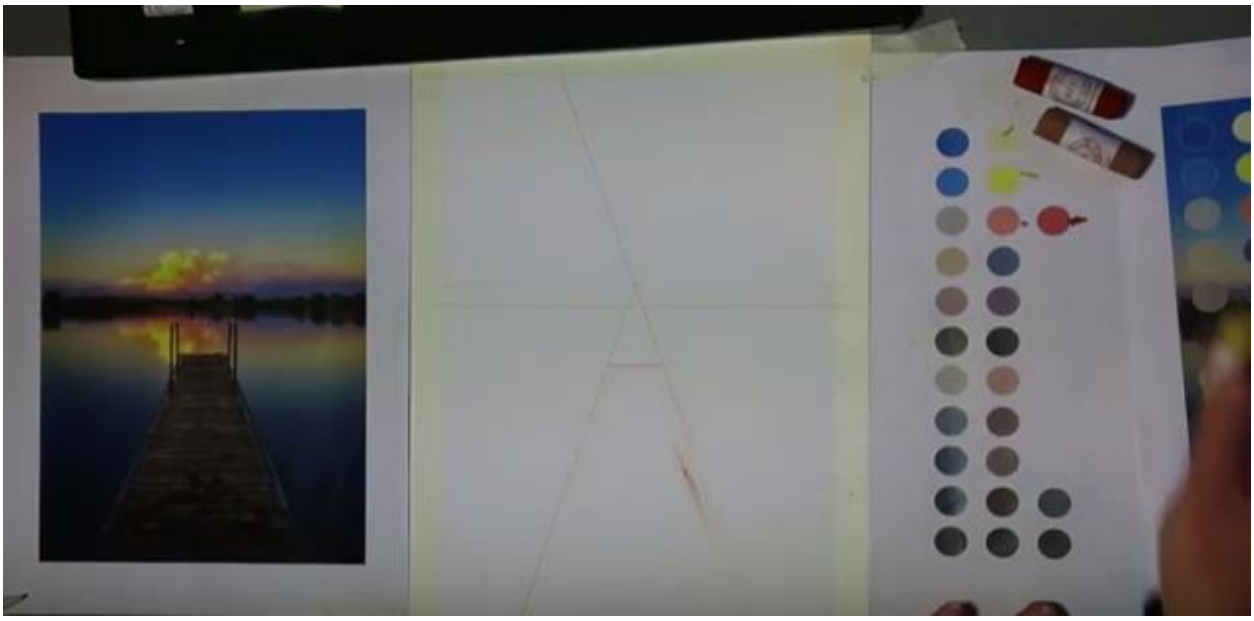
- Paper: Strathmore 400 Series Gray Scale or 400 Series Pastel
- High quality soft pastels
- Finishing sealing spray
- Other optional, and recommended, materials include pencil, water for washing fingers, tissue or cloth to clean fingers, blending stick, eraser, drinking water.

Motivation:

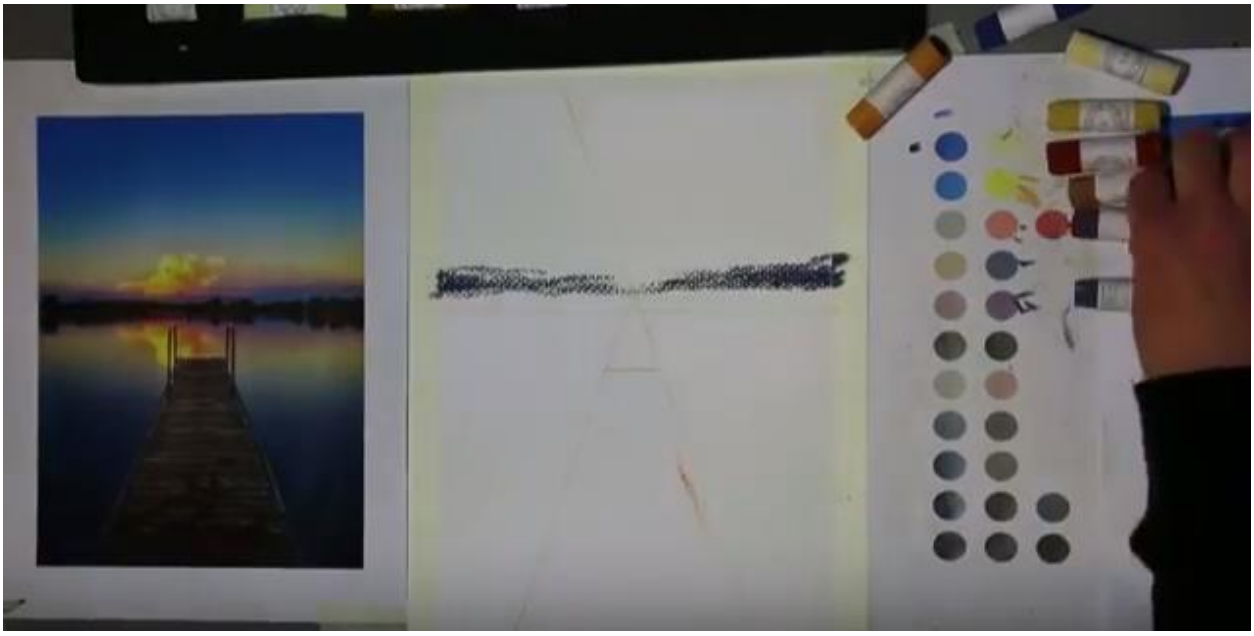
- Discuss the impact of simplicity.
- Talk about the natural inspiring impact of sunsets and lakes (nature).

Steps:

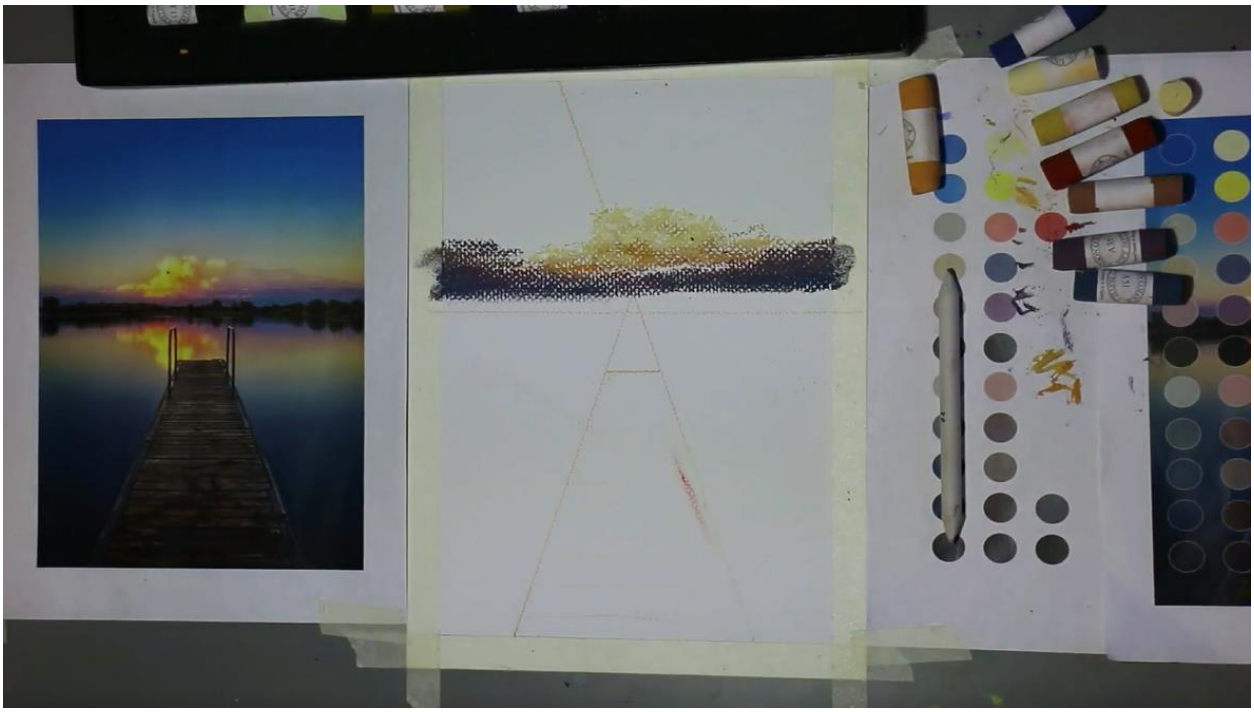
- Print out a reference photo and test the colors of your pastels on a different sheet of paper to find the colors that match your photo.



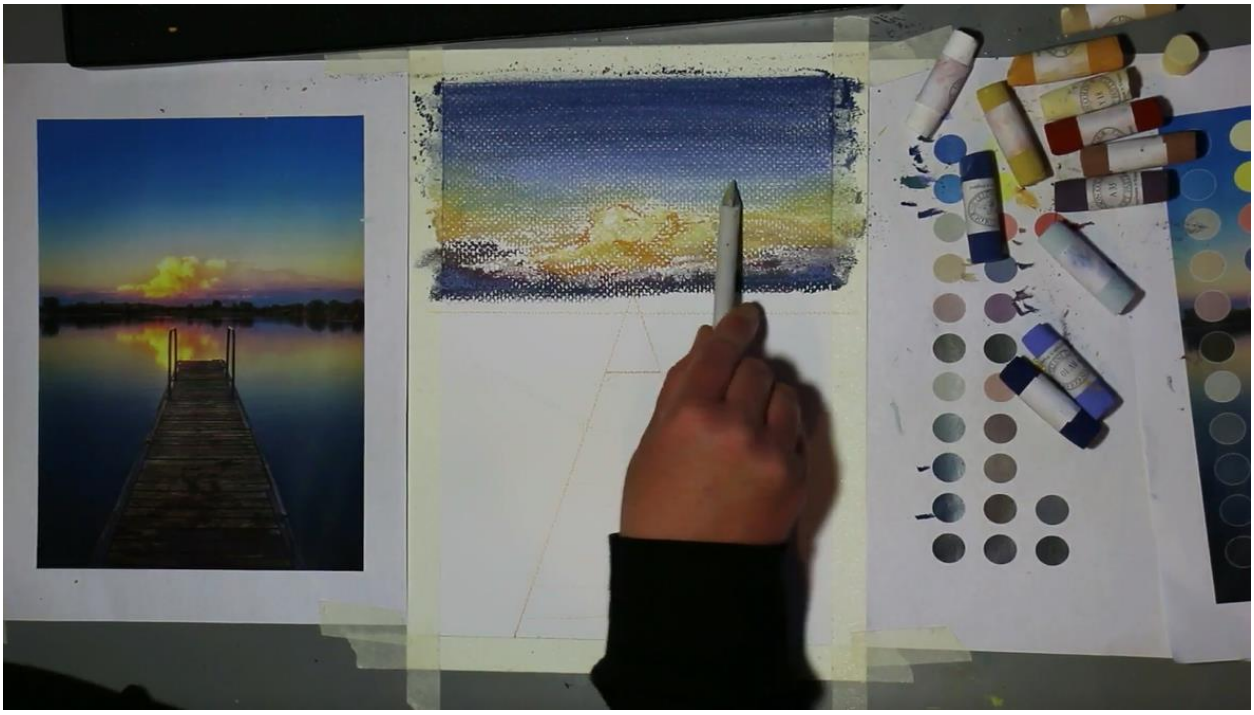
- Bonus step: Add a masking tape border to create an instant frame and elegance.
- Start with the darkest color:



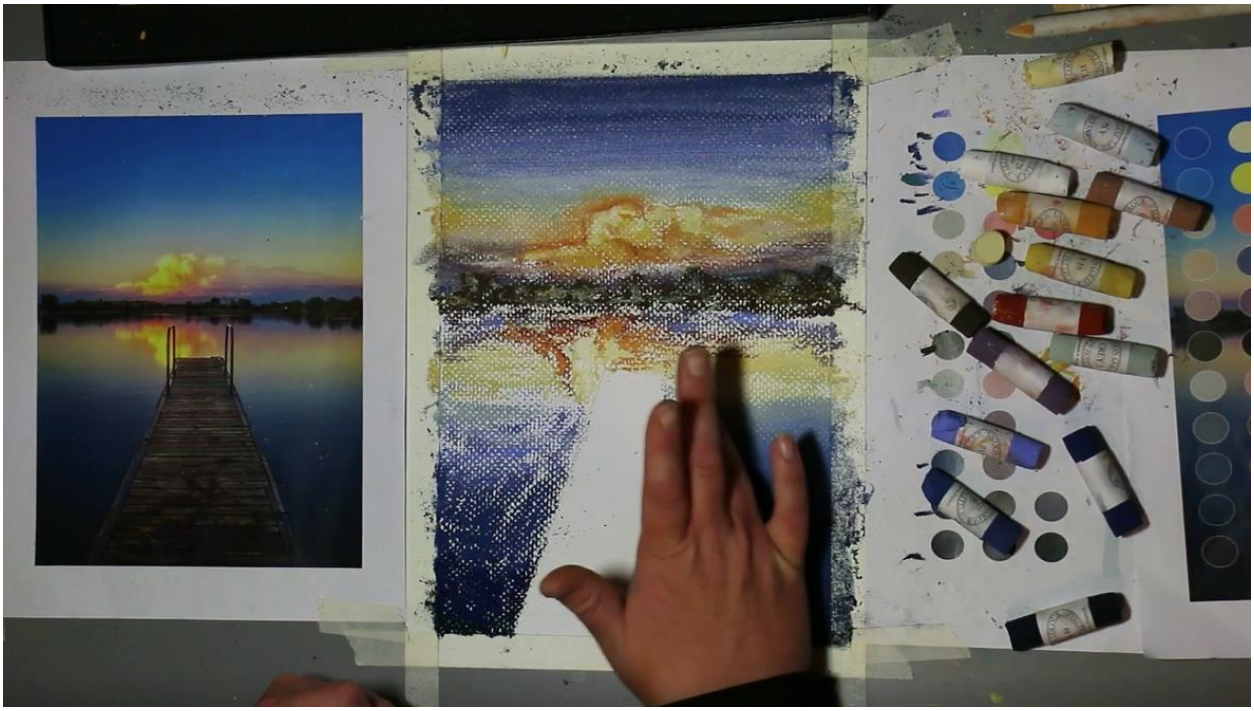
Start to blend in some of the lighter colors on top:



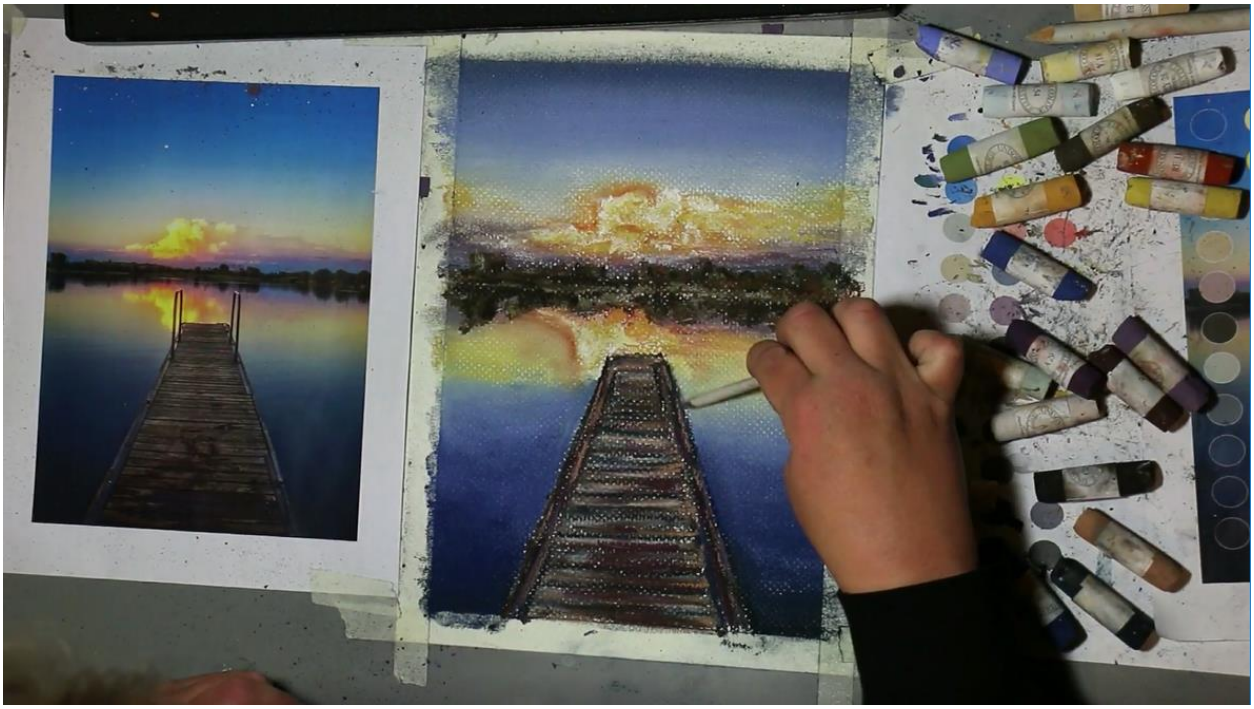
- Add in the sky color and use a blending stump to smooth and blend colors:



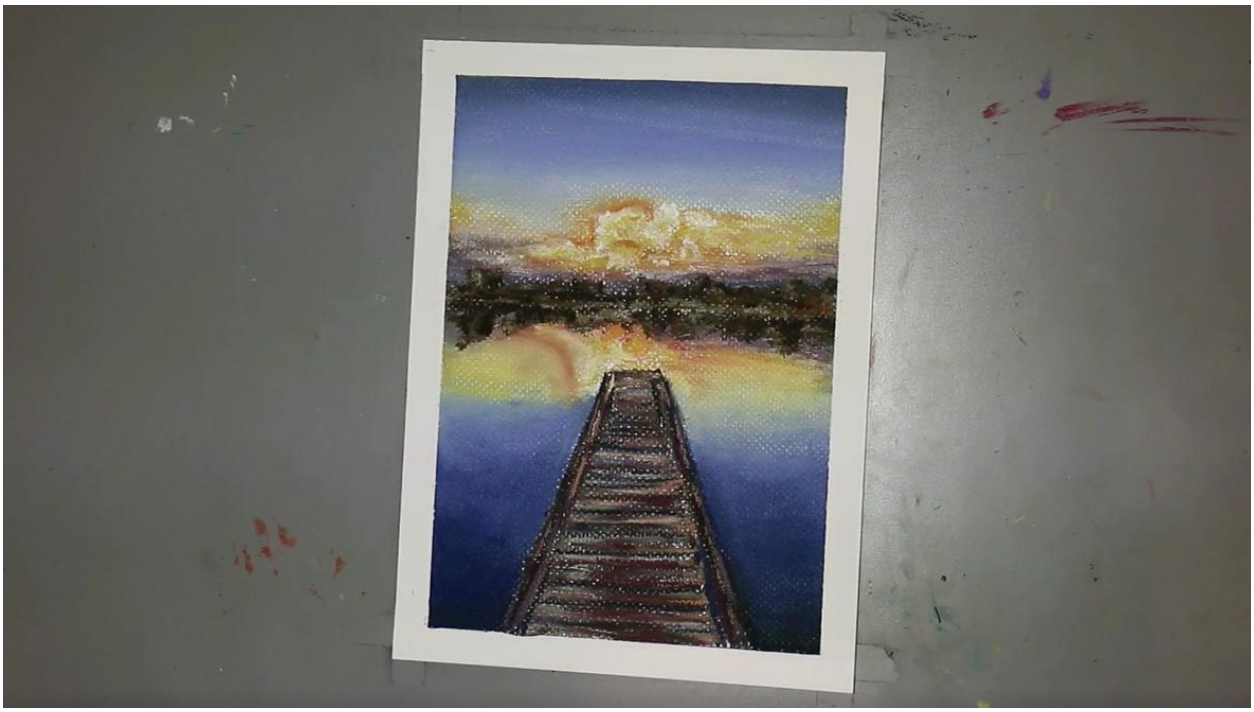
- Lay in more colors and values and use a blending stump or your fingers to smooth colors together:



- Continue to layer in colors. With soft pastels, you can add colors over the top of other colors and continue to blend and add dimension.
- Save all the final details for last and use a smaller blending stump at the end:



- Remove the tape and seal with finishing spray



Tips:

- Quality matters! All pastels are not created equally. Get yourself a quality set of pastels. You don’t have to break the bank, but it is worth the investment to spend a few extra bucks on a nicer set.

- Have a color wheel in front of you (you can easily find one on a google image search). Understanding basic complimentary and opposite colors will help you easily figure out which colors blend nicely together, and which will muddy together.
- It's okay to look at a photo! Ideally, we could all escape into the most beautiful and inspiring of surroundings to capture images, moments and details in our minds, and then transfer them effortlessly onto paper…but until then (which you should totally shoot for, soon), you have permission to reference a photo.