



TECHNIQUES IN PASTEL ART

with Amy Pearce Stone of Her Art from the Attic

Whimsical Owl with Oil Pastels

Objective: Create a whimsical owl using learned line, value blending, and multiple oil pastel texture techniques.

Supplies:

- Paper: Strathmore [400 Series Artagain Black](#)
- High quality oil pastels
- Graphite Pencil
- Finishing sealing spray
- Other optional, and recommended, materials include metallic oil pastels, water for washing fingers, tissue or cloth to clean fingers, blending stick, eraser, drinking water.



Motivation:

- Discuss the effectiveness in adding texture and vibrant value to create simple, yet striking results.
- Tie in line, shape, value, blending, and composition learned in lesson one, to emphasize the needed understanding, and evoke excitement in the potential of progression in learning.

Steps:

- Sketch out basic lines and shapes of the owl



- Choose and lay down values and texture for each shape. I am starting with the eyes and face of the owl.



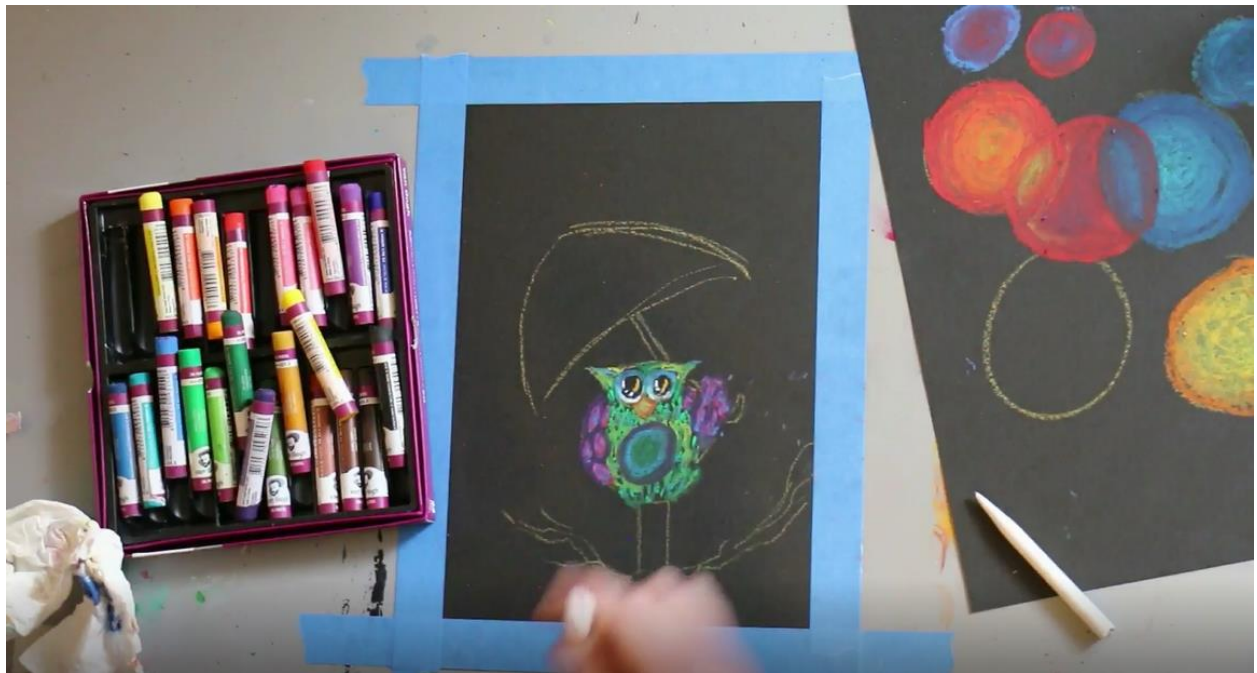
- Next I'm adding texture into the body in chunky line layers. I'm using blues, greens and yellow.



- I'm going to use purple, pink, and light blue in his wings, and use a stump to blend them. I'm going to make the wings a bit smoother with the blending stump but keep his body textured.



- I'm adding a smooth circle on his belly with green, blue and purple.



- Now I'll add feathers on his body by jabbing white onto his chest. I'm going to keep those chunky, then make smoother feathers with the white on his wings.



- Add the legs in using orange, yellow, white and red.



- Create a textured background. Have fun experimenting with some of the texture techniques you've learned, or create your own.



- Draw in lines and values for branch.



- Color the umbrella in whatever color you'd like. I'm using reds and oranges.



- Use white to add raindrops if you'd like.



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 be a "copy-cat"! As artists, much (if not most) of what we create imitates something else. Copying something we see (even someone else's artwork), can help us develop a keen eye for detail.