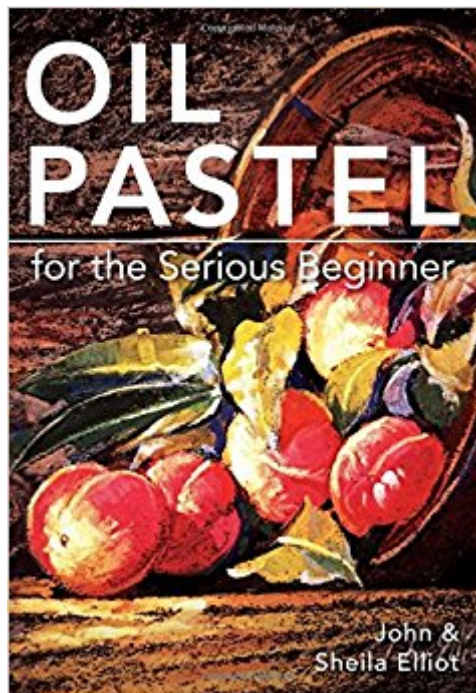




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Oil Pastel For The Serious Beginner: Basic Lessons In Becoming A Good Painter



Synopsis

If you are aspiring to the rank of professional oil pastel artist, look no further. Long neglected in the professional art world, oil pastels offer an unlimited palette of creative expression, with which no other medium can compare. Initially commissioned by Pablo Picasso, the oil pastel struggled into existence and was long dismissed as a medium for children. Thankfully, the convenience, quality, and non-toxic nature of oil pastels attracted the attention of art director and film producer John Elliot, who, in turn, authored this book. Like a true pioneer, Elliot has been on a mission to introduce other artists to this "new medium" since 1983 when he published the first article detailing its use. With over 178 full-color paintings, *Oil Pastels for the Serious Beginner* is dedicated to artists of all levels who are ready to try oil pastels. Featuring lessons that progressively become more challenging, this book demonstrates how the medium can make your artwork more creative. Learn how to create traditional landscape, portrait, and still life paintings, along with experimental approaches including: Impasto Etching Washes Monoprint Stencil and screen techniques Methods for combining oil pastel with soft pastel, mixed media, and more! John Elliot was born into a family of Scottish statesman that enthusiastically supported the arts. During his formative years, Elliot traveled extensively throughout Europe and found that a box of oil pastels and a few sheets of paper were the most practical tools for an artist on the move. After settling in the United States, Elliot expanded his talents and versatility to several areas of the arts and launched an award-winning career in film production and design. By the 1980s, however, his focus became principally oil pastel. Today, he continues to paint every day and enjoys that his book, co-created with his wife Sheila, shares his passion with a wider audience than ever.

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Customer Reviews

John Elliot wrote the first-ever article on how to use oil pastels for American Artist magazine in 1983. He has work in the collections of The Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Smithsonian/ National Collection of Fine Arts. His commissions include works for Ronald Reagan and Katharine Hepburn. He lives in Upper Nyack, New York. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I almost never write a review of a product I don't like and art books very rarely fit into that category. The content of this book is, for the most part, not bad, though the author dwells far too long on simply showing his own work, with no detailed focus on the underlying principles and techniques used to produce oil pastel paintings. The book is mostly comprised of example after example of the author's own paintings, with descriptions of visual elements and explanations of his aesthetic choices. There is a nice section at the beginning of the book about materials, but some of it is either out of date or simply no longer reflects the choices that artists are making now concerning things like the support they choose to paint on. There is a little section about warming up and learning practice strokes which can be helpful. The author spends a lot of time on mixed-media techniques later in the text, but I'm not a fan of mixed-media and, besides, the explanations and examples of these seem far too rudimentary to be of any real use. I will mention, too, that the softcover edition that I purchased looks very much like a print-on-demand or self-published title. The paper is not gloss or semi-gloss; it is as matte and absorbent as any sheet of common copy paper, only a little more durable. The pictures of the author's work vary greatly in quality throughout the book, ranging from positively "worn-out office color copier" grade to sort of acceptable. Some of the images are pretty grainy and some are just washed out, but none that I can tell are sharp and saturated (as you will find in most other art instruction books). Even Daniel E. Greene's "Pastel - A Comprehensive Guide to Pastel Painting," which is quite an old title, includes terrific high-gloss, saturated reproductions as 'plates' among its more numerous black and white images. It is very disappointing that this book is not very useful, or even enjoyable to thumb through (as so many art instruction books are). The main reason for this disappointment is that there are very few books to be had about oil pastel technique and theory. What is needed is an oil pastel instruction book with the same quality standards and inspirational attention to detail that is found in works about soft pastels by, say, Bill Creevy, Daniel E. Greene, Ellen Eagle, Allen Flattmann, Albert Handell, and many others.

The author is a pioneer and talented artist in oil pastel. He gives very valuable info about this medium--a long forgotten and underrated, even though promoted by Pablo Picasso...The book, however, is 'sketchy' in details and techniques. The illustrations and art work are excellent, but somewhat repetitive...A good introductory book for enthusiasts of oil pastels and beginners, till a better book is written by someone else---after this medium becomes better used and established in the fine art world. Soft pastels have been with us for many decades, thanks to Degas and Mary Cassatt...Oil pastels are still to be pushed by great masters....Fortunately oil pastels are available at various price ranges for students and professionals...One learns more by trying different brands rather than sticking to just a few brands---Holbein or Sennelier...With increasing concern for toxic dust particles from Soft pastels, oil pastels would be more widely used and this book would serve the newcomers well.

An honest and excellent book for both beginner and professional artists alike! I have gone back to this book several times as a reference for my art work over time. If you are looking for a book which will tell you what you will need to start out with oil pastels (and what is safe based on where you do your art work), the Oil Pastel for the Serious Beginner book will most certainly help you out!

I found the book helpful in offering a variety of techniques for oil pastels. Some of the step-by-step construction of sample works were difficult to follow as the photographs were not as "in sync" as I needed in order to accurately understand what had been done in each step. However, I feel I have a basic understanding of the medium in order to begin using it with some confidence.

This book has helped more than any other with the issues I had been having with my oil pastel techniques.

Good product! Thanks

Bought this to get me back into painting. Beautifully illustrated and great self teaching tool.

Definitely for the serious beginner. I guess I was not as serious as I thought I was!

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