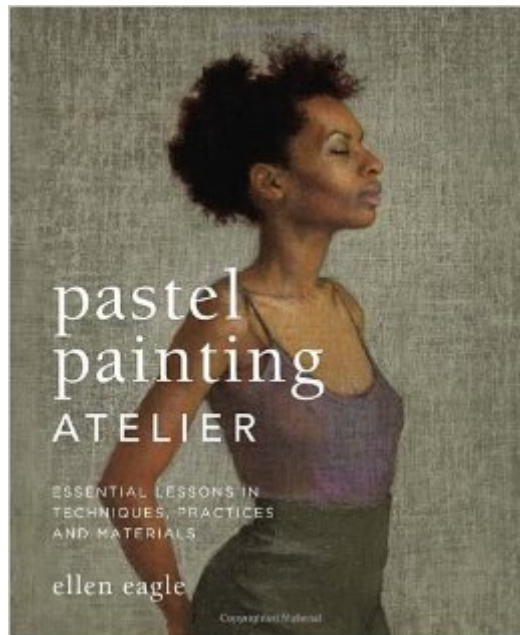


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# Pastel Painting Atelier: Essential Lessons In Techniques, Practices, And Materials



## Synopsis

Revel in the luminous and vibrant qualities of pastel with Ellen Eagle's essential course in the history, techniques, and practices of the medium. In this comprehensive yet intimate guide, Eagle explores pastel's rich but relatively unexamined past, reveals her own personal influences and approaches, and guides you toward the discovery and mastery of your own vision. In *Pastel Painting Atelier*, you will find:

- Advice on basic materials: guidance on building, storing, and organizing a collection of pastels; choosing the right paper; and the importance of experimentation
- Studio practice suggestions: ideas for creating your ideal working environment and recipes for making your own pastels and supports
- Study of the working process: lessons on proportion, gesture, composition, color, application, identifying and correcting problems, and recognizing when a work is finished
- Meditation on subject: cues for extrapolating the subtle details, presence, and temporal features of whatever you choose to paint
- Step-by-step demonstrations: Eagle's acute insights into her own works as they progress

A magnificent selection of works by masters such as James Abbott McNeill Whistler, Rosalba Carriera, Mary Cassatt, and Eugene Delacroix augment this guide, as do works by contemporary artists including Harvey Dinnerstein, Elizabeth Mowry, and Daniel Massad. Aimed at serious artists, this guide enlightens, instructs, and inspires readers to create brilliant and sensitive works in the historic medium of pastel.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Ellen Eagle's book, "Pastel Painting Atelier" is the most complete, informative book on pastel painting I have seen. I am a pastelist, and have a collection of pastel books, and NONE compare in

clarity of information, or quality of photography. I Have studied with several different pastel artists, the instruction in the book is like being in a pastel workshop. Delightful to read, and a beautiful book to add to my collection. I highly recommend it for beginners and experienced artists alike.

A marvelous book in every way. The demo alone is worth the price of admission. Valuable information about pastels, about how to use them, and even about the history of this beautiful and expressive medium. And the reproductions are first rate.

A wonderful book that is a pleasure to read. The author's sharing of her creative process and chapters on the step-by-step building of a pastel painting are invaluable. Suggestions about materials, how to evaluate a work in progress and how to correct mistakes are very helpful. The book illustrates vast expressive possibilities and quiet qualities of pastel, a medium that had its golden age more than two centuries ago but now is rather under-appreciated. It also highlights the art of looking at and truly seeing another person, without which portraiture is impossible. Those in search of bulleted supply lists and shortcuts to making fast and easy paintings may be disappointed. But if they slow down and read carefully through this book, they may discover something new to them. It can inspire an art student or a seasoned painter seeking to expand his or her repertoire and to explore a new medium.

I confess that I have been privileged to study under the wise eye of Ellen Eagle. Upon first sight, one wonders how so much passion, generosity of spirit, and enormous talent could be contained within this diminutive, gentle woman. She not only has the sight and sensitivity of a brilliant portrait artist; she is a patient, gracious, and gifted teacher--no matter what the level of talent or experience of The Student--she embraces their needs and guides them with intelligent sensitivity. That said, I have been anxiously awaiting HER BOOK! It is a visual delight and reads like poetry. Yet, it overflows with practical, experienced information to aid any artist in their quest to successfully commit their vision to the paper of their choice with the pastel materials that best suit their desired outcome. Yes, this treasure is jammed-packed with quintessential "Ellen Eagle"--- Generous Spirit. Consummate Artist. Insightful Teacher. Aw-inspiring Paintings. History of Pastels. An instruction manual woven within a beautiful "coffee table" volume. It is quite special, indeed, and in many ways defies description. It is a masterful work. If I could own only two books to assist my artist endeavors--one would be Ellen's book-"pastel painting ATELIER". The other would be Betty Edwards: "Drawing On The Right Side Of The Brain". With these two books in hand, in heart, in mind, in sight---you are

ready for a magnificent art-filled adventure and a way to express the journey of your life through your own personal style.

I have a deep love of working with pastels. It began in childhood when my grandfather (trained at the academy in Rome in the early 1900s) created pastel paintings during family visits, and sometimes let me use sticks from his huge oak chest of drawers that contained his complete set of Rembrandt colors. It left me with an appreciation for pastel portraiture, in particular (my grandfather's specialty), that only increased as I found the pastel work by Degas, for example, and other artists traditionally considered oil painters. But pastel was not taught at my art schools, nor are there many publications about them. Over the years I did read books on pastel and sometimes followed pastel forums on artists' community sites. But none of these experiences matched memories of how my grandfather worked with them, and the primary focus seemed to be plein air landscape painting. So it has been a joy to find Ellen Egel's book, and pore over her lucid, thoughtful writings on the medium. In particular, I found her use of various pastel hardnesses refreshing. (It seems these days that many artists develop a rather lopsided worship of the softest sticks they can find.) Also, the way she plays with transparency and opacity (allowing the ground to show through many color areas, using blending as a deliberate effect rather than as the default mode of pigment application) was a revelation for me. This is an artist who has developed her craft to a very high level, and even better, has a generous and candid teaching style that is a pleasure to read. Her book is not a "how-to manual" that describes a single method of creating works in pastels. Rather, it feels more like a studio visit, where she sits and explains the things you're seeing her work with. Just as my grandfather once did.

Ellen Eagle has written one of the most beautiful books on pastel painting, especially portrait work. From the front cover on through, it is a book you will enjoy and learn from. One cannot help but be moved by her inspirational and sensitive portraits. The beautiful cover represents more of what you will find inside. I am left in awe of her work. The book is amazing, fascinating and interesting. This artist is amazing beyond words. I also like how she includes her students' questions in the book and then answers in a clear and instructive voice. There is advice on pastel materials and setting up those materials, studio practices with ideas for having that perfect studio, instruction on the working process and step by step demonstrations. There is also insight into the personalities of her models in her work. It is an enlightening and inspiring book offering high quality within its pages.

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