



Mastering Pastel: Capture the beauty of the world around you in this colorful medium (Artist's Library)

By Alain Picard

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In this new addition to the Artist's Library series, talented master artist, Alain Picard, guides the reader through an exploration of this unique medium and its myriad uses. After an introduction to tools and materials, readers will learn how to use various pastel techniques, including hatching, crosshatching, and stippling, to create depth and dimension in their artwork. Readers will also find basic information on color theory and how to use color to elicit emotion, portray mood or time of day, and suggest depth and distance. Throughout the course of the book, aspiring pastel artists will learn how to use soft and hard pastels to achieve art that is bold and intense or delicate and soft. Easy step-by-step lessons cover a variety of subject matter, including landscapes, portraits, and still lifes. Artist tips and tricks demonstrate how to blend and layer colors and create reflection, shadow, and soft and hard edges. With its breadth of professional instruction and variety of subjects to paint, *Mastering Pastel* is the perfect resource to start building artist proficiency in this enthralling and versatile medium.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Alain Picard earned a BA in illustration from Western CT State University and went on to study at the Art Student's League in New York City. Picard sites Sargent, Degas, and Sorolla among his artistic influences. A love of light and beauty are immediately apparent in his pastel and oil paintings. Alain's work has been featured in such publication as as *The Artist's Magazine* and *The Pastel Journal*. He has garnered top awards throughout the Northeast in esteemed exhibitions including the Portrait Society of America, the Hudson Valley Art Association, the Connecticut Society of Portrait Artists, the Connecticut Pastel Society, and the Pastel Society of America. Alain is a signature member of the Pastel Society of America as well as the Connecticut Pastel Society, where he previously served as President. In 2004 *The Artist's Magazine* highlighted Alain as one of 20 contemporary artists "On the Rise." He later won the Best Portfolio Award at the 2009 Portrait Society of America Conference in Washington, D.C. A frequent workshop instructor and demonstrator for art associations, schools, galleries, and museums, Alain was recently invited to demonstrate a portrait in pastel at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. He lives with his wife and two sons in Southbury, Connecticut. Visit www.picardstudio.com.

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