



Education & Retreat Center

WELCOME LETTER

Pastels for Everyone

Instructor: Diane Arenberg

Start Date: 7/7/19

End Date: 7/13/19

Check-In Begins at 3:00pm at the Welcome Center on 7/7/19. Dinner 5:30 – 6:30;
Orientation 6:45 pm

Invitation: I am excited to share over thirty years of experience in working with the medium of Pastel at Ghost Ranch! For me, it was love at first sight when I arrived at Ghost Ranch. That led to my second true love, Pastels. It's a medium which is easy to transport, gives an immediate gratification, is forgiving when it comes to mistakes, and has no drying time!

Learning Outcomes: Whether you are an experienced pastelist or a beginner, you can expect to take away some different techniques, a better knowledge of the medium, and methods for creation of interesting compositions. We will cover the joys and challenges of painting in the high desert terrain.

Course Schedule:

Our class meets from 9 am-Noon and 6:45 pm- Sunset M-F. You will have afternoons free to paint on your own or explore the many offerings of Northern New Mexico. We will be doing a combination of plein air and studio painting. The day before the Festival of Arts show, we put the finishing touches on our paintings in the studio.

Instructor Background: My love affair with painting began at age five. I distinctly remember a visit to my kindergarten teacher at her home where I was awed by a huge easel she had in her studio. For Christmas that year, I received my first easel, which I still have to this day! I began formal art studies at the University of Illinois and continued in the arts at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, where I received a Bachelor of Arts in Interior Design.

My route to being a fine artist has been circuitous via Commercial Interior Design and Alcohol and Drug Counseling as an Art Therapist. Eventually, the pull to become a fine artist won out. A trip to Ghost Ranch in 1988 for a painting workshop confirmed my choice. I have never looked back. Much of my art training has been through classes and workshops with artists whose work I admire: Doug Dawson, Daniel Gerhartz, Yuqi Wang, Sally Strand, Ryan Wurmser, and Glenna Hartmann. Equally important is my library of art books on my favorite masters: Victor Higgins, William Wendt, Ernest Blumenschein, and Jules Bastien LePage, to name a few.

Recently I was chosen as one of 6 artists internationally to participate in “Convergence: Textures of Time,” a cultural exchange and artist residency in Tetouan, Morocco. I’m proud to be a Signature Member of the Pastel Society of New Mexico and an artist member of the Palette and Chisel in Chicago, Illinois. I’m indebted to the New Mexico artist community and pay it forward through my work on the Governing Board of the National Ghost Ranch and as an instructor there in painting and silversmithing.

Provided Materials: I provide 1 sheet of sanded pastel board per person, plus mediums used in exercises. Plein air painting tools such as view finders, greyscales, and composition aids.

What to Bring: Pastels: Bring a combination of hard and soft pastels. I can’t stress the importance of this enough. If you can only swing bringing one brand, then it should be the Sennelier 40 count Half stick set. Better yet, the 80 count. More colors = less frustration in the

field. Hard: NuPastel, Creatacolour, Pastel Carre, Rembrandt Soft: There are many brands of soft pastels - Unison, Schmincke, Sennelier. Richeson. Sennelier makes a very nice 80 Color set of half sticks. At the very least you should have the equivalent of a 40 count half sticks set. I like the half sticks no wrappers to peel! Oils or Acrylics: Several of you have expressed a desire to work in acrylic or oil. My oil palette consists of warm colors: cad lemon, cad yellow medium, cad orange, cad red, alizarin crimson and lamp black