

Fri 26th – Sun 28th September 2025

Innovative Soft Pastel Techniques

with Richard Suckling

In this three day workshop we will be looking at how amazingly versatile soft pastels are and how we can push them beyond the traditional way of using them. We will see how it can be combined with water based mediums, crushed, sprinkled, splashed and dragged to extend the creative possibilities for picture making. A loose and expressive approach will be encouraged with an emphasis on trying new techniques to extend the artist's skill set. Although primarily a soft pastel workshop, suitable for all levels, it may also be of interest to mixed media artists.



Please bring along:

A selection of soft pastels minimum of thirty full or half sticks or more if you have them. Please ensure they are artists soft pastels not hard or oil pastels. Sennelier, Unison Colour and Rembrandt all produce half stick sets that are suitable for this workshop. Ensure that you have a good selection of tones especially some darks as these are often lacking in sets.

I will be using watercolour, gouache and acrylic inks and would suggest students just bring along whatever they already have. You do not need all of these so better to use a water based medium you have used before.

Paper - I will be using primarily Canson Velvet Pastel Paper but Pastelmat, Sennelier Multi media pastel card, Canson Touch, Uart, Colourfix and even heavy watercolour paper will work. Sennelier La Carte pastel card is NOT suitable for this workshop. For those using water colour paper it will need to be cold pressed or rough and either stretched or of a heavier weight.

Paint brushes - bigger is definitely better for our purposes.

Water Pot

Small sketch book

Marker pen or soft pencil

Masking tape

Small spray bottle