



TECHNIQUES IN PASTEL ART

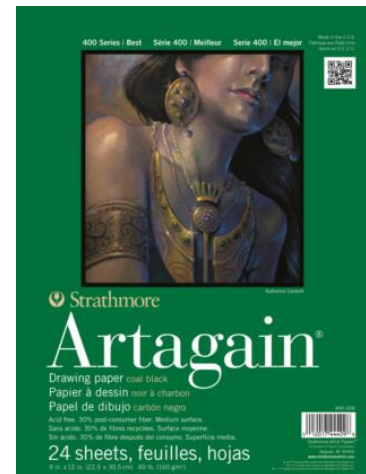
with Amy Pearce Stone of Her Art from the Attic

Abstract Line & Circle Composition & Value Blending with Oil Pastels

Objective: Create an abstract, blended value oil pastel line and circle drawing in order to simply introduce basic oil pastel techniques and textures, as well as have a beautiful finished project.

Supplies:

- Paper: Strathmore [400 Series Artagain Black](#)
- High quality oil pastels
- Graphite Pencil
- At least 3 round objects to trace (IE: bowl, masking tape, paper towel roll, etc.)
- Finishing sealing spray
- Other optional, and recommended, materials include pastel pencils for tracing circles, water for washing fingers, tissue or cloth to clean fingers, blending stick, eraser, drinking water.

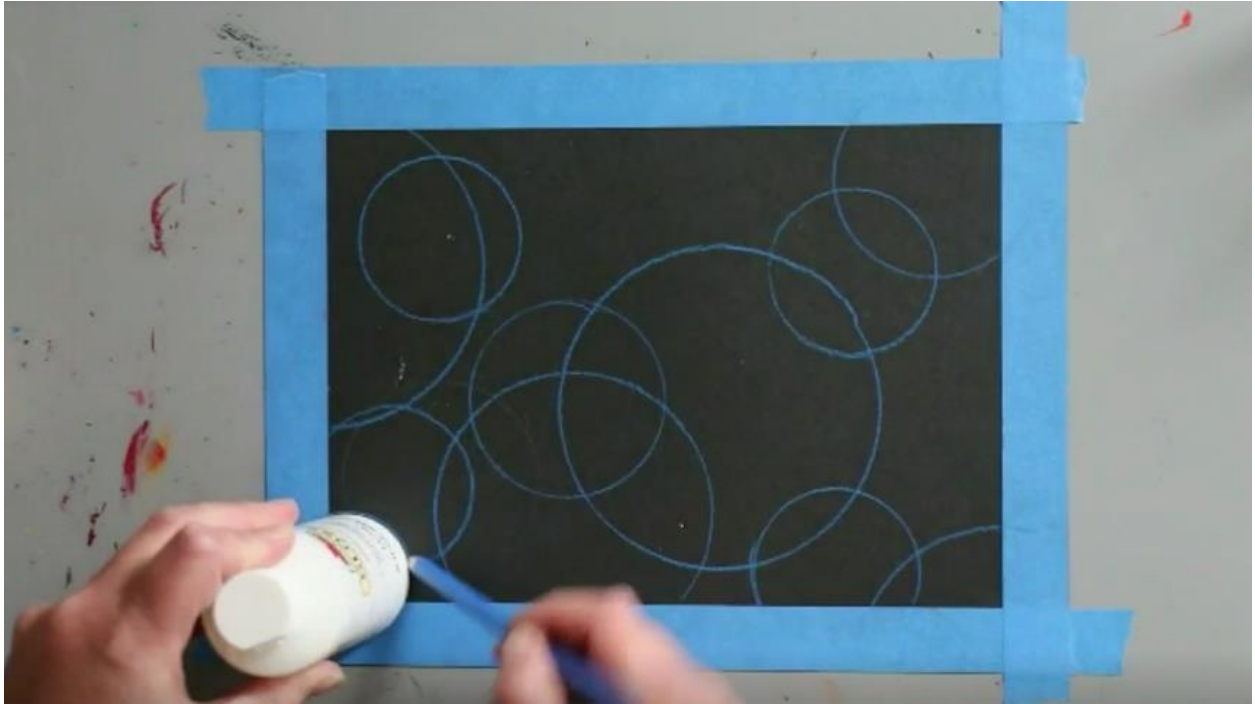


Motivation:

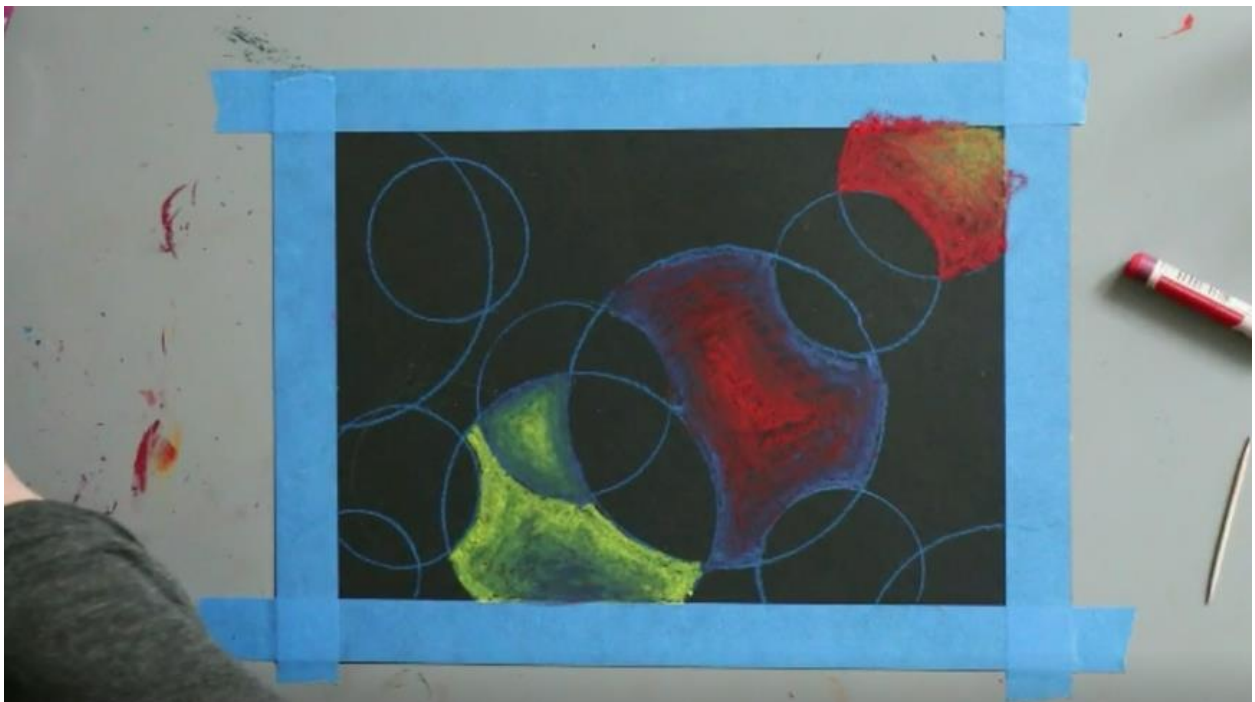
- Discuss the importance of understanding, recognizing, and practicing simple shapes and values in composition, no matter the complexity or style of the project. (What we learn in this lesson will be tied into subsequent lessons.)
- Compare some of Pablo Picasso's recognizable pieces that illustrate the points of this lesson.

Steps:

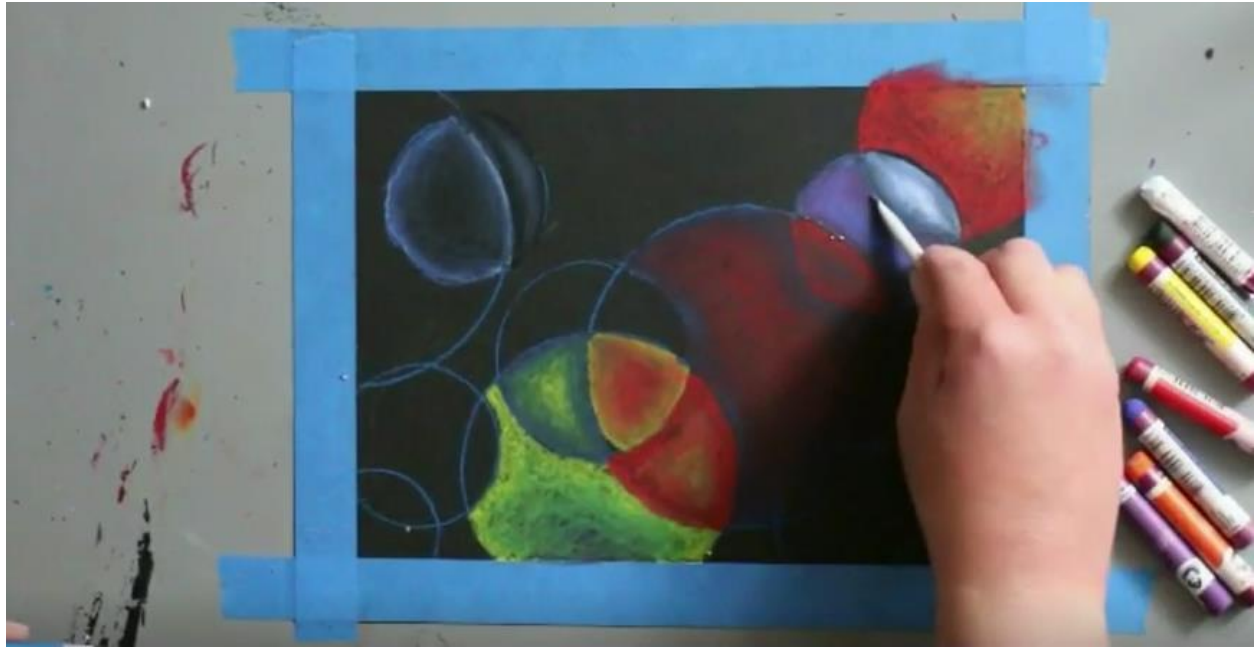
- I like to tape my paper down because I like the border it gives the final image and it anchors my sheet in place while I'm working.
- Start by tracing circles in different sizes using graphite or pastel pencils while paying attention to the placement and composition.



- Choose and lay down color values for each shape. You'll see I'm tracing the edge of each shape with one color, and then adding a different color in the center of the shape. Then I blend them together.



- Blend colors in each shape using a blending stump, your fingers or a tissue. You can experiment and see which blending method works best for you.
- TIP! Use a toothpick to pick up pieces of the oil pastel that have come off onto the sheet.



- Continue to experiment by blending colors together in all the shapes. You can play with blending from dark colors to light colors, or light colors to dark colors and see what you like best. Using white over the top of a color will really help make the color pop.



- Bonus step: Add drop shadows to each shape to give 3D illusion, and trace around the edges of the circles with a light color to give it a glowing effect.



- Carefully remove the tape



- Use a spray fixative to seal the drawing and make sure the pastel doesn't smudge since it never dries



Frame it up if you'd like!



Tips:

- Quality matters! All pastels are not created equally. Get yourself a quality set of pastels. You don't have to break the bank, but it is worth the investment to spend a few extra bucks on a nicer set.
- Have a color wheel in front of you (you can easily find one on a google image search). Understanding basic complimentary and opposite colors will help you easily figure out which colors blend nicely together, and which will muddy together.
- It's okay to "cheat"! So many people will tell you it's a no no to blend with tissue, cloth, or even your finger. That's just silly!