

Paper

Alternative Papers

Are available such as boards which are handy for framing and painting on site. Mount board and many other materials including canvas or canvas boards can be used by painting on surfaces with products like Canson Tex Paint or Colourfix primers. Canvas or canvas board surfaces are required to be prepared with an acrylic base first. (Betty Sutton)

Art Spretum Clear Pastel Primer

Apply Art Spretum Clear Pastel Primer over any surface including watercolour paper where you want to apply any dry medium. This gives the right amount of tooth to the surface. (Tricia Reust)

Bright Paper

Try using bright paper, complementary to the dominant subject matter. (Joan Macnaught)

Fill the Tooth

As you start to fill the tooth of the paper with many colour glazes, the tooth becomes filled and the pastels start blending themselves. (Tricia Taylor)

Paper Colour

Is important whether it be pastel or complimentary. Assessing the dominant tone in the painting is important as the subject will be both warm and cool e.g. hot scenes on cool coloured paper and cool scenes on hot coloured paper. This makes for an exciting painting. (Margaret Evans)

Paper Requirements

Pastel requires a paper with tooth to fix itself to the surface. If used on a smooth surface it has no holding power and the pastel will fall off. Papers with a sand paper effect (more tooth) will eat into pastels a lot faster. The more tooth the more pastel can be put on in layers. The ability of the paper to hold the pastels is paramount. Experimenting with the various papers available is necessary to find the one that suits.

When choosing papers consider:

- Texture;
- Acid free;
- Colour;
- Weight;
- Using the right side which is a personal preference (Betty Sutton)