

# **PSA -Portrait Workshop with Christine Swann Light, Color and the Portrait**

August 23-25, 2024

Greetings and thank you for your interest in this zoom class.

## **To get the most out of this Zoom session:**

Brush up on your Zoom skills: Know how to sign in, mute and unmute yourself. I will be controlling the demo camera so you can see it as large as possible on your screen. There will not be time during the class to teach anyone how to understand zoom, so be sure to complete a Zoom tutorial. This will keep the class moving along and focused on the lesson.

## **Day 1 / Thirds of the Head and The LAW of Light**

The first day is devoted to finding a likeness and understanding light in the first 2 layers. The day will be filled with many “academic” lessons including drawing and painting along with me. (I will be chatting and painting the entire time.) There will be no need for pastel sticks on the first day. We will be taking our initial drawings and then painting the “light” ovetop of them. This will not only get us to understand what the topography of the head is doing, but it will also “correct” the drawings.

Day 1 is all about light, structure and the complex topography of the head. This is the most important thing when tackling a portrait. By the end of the day your drawing will look like this...



## Day 2 / Color and Construction

Once the structure and light have been established, color comes into play. Learning to be intuitive while finding the lies presented from photographic references becomes important. The portrait then progresses through 3 more layers to a finish.

### MATERIALS LIST:

#### Surface

Sennelier LaCarte Pastel "Card" in Sienna brown. Size about 16x 20" Be prepared to draw the head nearly life-size.

#### Pastels

It will be beneficial to get pencils in the following colors because as we go along in the initial drawing, it is beneficial to change colors and "reset" the drawing in newer, darker colors. The photo below depicts the range of pastel pencils I will be using:

You really don't need any other pastel pencils except yellow on the first day. The key is to get at least 4 values and color changes - from a light ochre color up to darker browns, or dark greens or navy and then a black. **Any brands** of pastel pencils are fine.

I keep an Exacto blade nearby, but I never worry about a "perfect" point. You should not either.



## **Reference Photos –**

**I will send the references that everyone will be working on for each day.**

I will be demonstrating from a photo that will be projected on my iPad. For this class we will not be using a model since a model through Zoom will not be any more beneficial than a photo to understand structure. But a good photo reference is key so we will all be using my references.

The photos can be printed or you can draw from your iPad or computer. An iPad on a stand is preferable since you can look back and forth at it from a distance. The nearer to seeing it at life-size the better. It is *extremely* hard to paint a life-size head from a tiny photo or from your cell phone, so make sure you can adjust the reference photo to near life-size.

## **PASTELS**

You will need pastel sticks from each “power category” below. The 3/4 power category is optional. The more colors the better in each category. Please don't feel as though you need to buy more sticks. I am a big believer in not having to have every single brand out there.

**\*\*\*As long as you have a pretty good range of colors in at least one brand in each of the categories below you are all set.**

**\*\*\*The more pastel pencils the better!**

**If you have questions on what you have or what you need, please reach out.**  
**[christine@swannportraits.com](mailto:christine@swannportraits.com)**

## **Pastel CATEGORIES:**

**\*Just have one brand from each low, medium or high-power category. If you have a brand from the 3/4 category and nothing from the high-power category then use those as your high power.**

**LOW POWER** - all pastel sticks, (no matter what brand) Rembrandts, Nupastels, Creatacolors or any old *square* Grumbachers

**MEDIUM POWER** - Giraults, (highly recommended) Winsor Newton, Blue Earth, Diane Townsend, Mount Vision, Unisons, Older Richesons or any old *round* Grumbachers,

**3/4 POWER-- OPTIONAL ---** Terry Ludwigs, Newer Richesons, Schminckes, Ming Art Pastels

**HIGH POWER** - Senneliers, Great Americans, Roches

In addition:

-You will also need a **white and a black surface** to work on for various exercises. This can be white printer paper and black construction paper.

-Microfiber cloth -Xacto blade

I look forward to working alongside you! See you soon- Christine

