



CORRECT CARE AND STORAGE OF YOUR ORIGINAL PASTEL PAINTING

Your new pastel painting is an original work of fine art. Only the very best archival, museum quality materials and highest quality artist's pastels available today were used for its creation. If properly taken care of, your painting will last for many lifetimes. Pastel is one of the most pigmented and colourfast art mediums in existence with many pastels painted over 200 years ago, still being as bright as the day they were painted.

The artist's pigments in my pastels are the same as those used in fine oil paints. The reason that pastels tend to be more colour fast long term is that the pigments remain dry and are not mixed with a liquid binder as is the case with oils. Over time this liquid binder may degrade causing changes in colour hues and brightness. The pure bright hues on your pastel painting will not yellow over time.

Loose particles of pastel

Your pastel painting may shed a few particles of pigment when new. This is perfectly normal and should not cause alarm. Gradually as time goes by, the shedding will stop. Please do not attempt to rub or brush away any fallen particles, as you may smudge the surface of your painting. Instead, either lightly shake them off or if your painting is not yet framed, use a very delicate and gentle blower to blow a gentle flow of air across the surface...emphasis on gentle here! Do not blow with your mouth as you risk accidentally spitting onto the painting, potentially causing blemishes.

Another alternative is to use a very small and gentle suction device that can be held above the painting to remove the particles. Take great care not to use anything with too strong a suction on it or you will risk sucking the painting up against the suction device and marking its surface. It is highly recommended to store your unframed painting flat in its protective, acid free packaging until you take it to your framer.

Your pastel painting has had extra attention to remove as many loose particles as possible prior to you receiving it. This means that loose particles should be fairly minimal.

Framing

You will receive your painting wrapped in protective packaging. This packaging is fine for short-term storage, but to protect and preserve your painting while it is on display, you should have it professionally framed behind glass. Please choose your framer carefully. Discount framers may charge less, but they often save money and cut corners by using non-archival, non-acid-free framing materials. These materials may harm your painting. It's worth choosing the best quality framing materials so that you and your family can enjoy your painting for many years to come.

What to tell your framer...

You want acid-free, archival framing materials. The backing board and mats, if any, should be museum quality. Acid free conservation board is best. Cheap mat board or brown cardboard backings will stain and yellow your painting within a few years.

Discuss carefully with your framer when considering using any sort of spray fixative or coating on your painting in the framing process. Doing so will slightly dull the colours of your painting, though it will reduce chances of smudging so this is something you will want to consider carefully. Generally it is not needed if the painting is kept protected behind glass though it can help reduce some of the shedding particles. However your particular painting has already had many of the loose particles removed. Careful handling is a must. Do not touch the painted surface and handle only the very edges. Putting fingers or other items on top of the painting or allowing it to be rubbed or flexed will potentially damage the surface. Keep it flat, supported from underneath and facing upwards to protect the pastel surface.

When choosing a framer, choose someone who is experienced in working with fine art pastels and has an eye for detail. A good framer is invaluable and in the long run can save you a lot of money and headaches so look after them and they will look after you.

A framer who works mostly with printed reproductions or oil paintings may well be a fantastic framer of the art they currently deal with but he or she may not realise that pastels take special handling. Do not risk the welfare of your painting in the hands of an inexperienced framer. Your pastel painting has been created with an additional boarder around it to make the framing process easier and to allow you to view the full image size even when framed.

It is advised not use Plexiglas™ or non-glare glass to frame your portrait. Plexiglas™ holds a static charge that may pull pastel particles from the paper and in time create a “ghost” image on the underside of the glass. This will probably not seriously harm your painting, but it will certainly obscure your view of it! Non-glare glass makes your painting appear blurry and dull in colour, and it is best avoided. Standard plate glass is the best option in most cases.

One good approach for framing your pastel is to use a reversed double mount, with the larger window underneath. This creates a small gap behind the visible mount board where any fallen particles will be invisible. You do not want the glass to lay directly onto the painting itself. A quality framer will know exactly how to do this though you will have to ask for it.

Hanging your pastel painting

Choose a dry place indoors out of direct sunlight. Sunlight, even filtered through a window, has a negative effect of the preservation of all fine artwork. It degrades paper and canvas and may fade even the most durable pigments. Dampness may damage paper and even allow mould to grow on paintings. Outside walls, cellar walls and stone or concrete walls may transmit dampness, so avoid hanging art on them where possible. An interior wall without nearby windows is ideal. Bedrooms, sitting rooms and hallways are often the best places for fine artworks. Bathrooms and kitchens may have very damp air, so please avoid hanging your fine artworks near showers, baths and stoves.

Thank you so much for taking an interest in my work.

I really appreciate it!

If you need any help, have any questions or would like to purchase any of my art or book for a private commission please email me...

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