

1 day Workshop #15 VIANNA SZABO  
Using Photographs to Create Painterly Children's Portraits  
Sunday, June 9  
SUGGESTED SUPPLIES

*FOR ALL IAPS WORKSHOPS & MASTER CLASSES:*

*You must bring your own portable easel. The room will be set with small tables and chairs which can be moved around to suit your preference. You can either stand at an easel and use the table for your supplies, or you can bring a table easel and sit to work. IMPORTANT: please bring a plastic or cloth sheet to place under your easel, or table, to protect the hotel's carpet.*

PASTELS: When working with pastels it is important to have as many available to you as possible, so bring what you can. A range of 4 values with a selection of the primaries and secondaries in each value will be very helpful. If you are starting out Holbein makes an excellent portrait set. A set of Nu-Pastels and softer pastels such as Terry Ludwig's or Unisons will work.

PAPER: 11 x 14 inches Wallis, U-Art or another sanded paper- Preferably white or beige. Vianna uses 400 grade.

BOARD: Pastel support/drawing board for 11 x 14 inch paper

EASEL: Portable easel, may be for standing or use seated at a table, your preference. Also bring plastic or cloth sheet to place under your work to protect the hotel's carpet.

Viva or shop towels

Brushes -a small soft brush size 4 to 12- NOT good quality. You can purchase a Soft Grip for around 3.00

2 pieces of Foam core cut slightly larger than the paper - for taping the paper down and safely transporting your work home.

Tracing Paper or glassine- to protect the pastel- cut it to the size of the foam core

Artist tape - for taping down your paper to the board and taping the boards together for transport.

The online store, Dakota Art Pastels, has everything the pastel artist could ever want and at reasonable prices. Their address is [www.dakotapastels.com](http://www.dakotapastels.com).

Photos to paint from - see Vianna's notes below:

You will need several photographs. Please bring photos that you have taken and not ones taken by a professional studio or from a magazine. *I will have a selection of photos to work from for those without adequate photographs.* My camera is a digital SLR Nikon D50. Most digital cameras with 6 megapixels and up are good enough.

The quality of the portrait will depend on the quality of the photographs you are working from. What makes a good photograph often does not make a good reference photo. Here are a few tips:

Think naturally

Natural light- morning or evening is best. Photograph the child in the shade or on a cloudy day. If you are shooting indoors then have the child sit next to a window (north is best). **DO NOT USE THE FLASH.**

Act Naturally - toothy smiles where the kid calls out “cheese” are great for photographs in the family album but almost impossible to paint. When I am shooting for a commission I let the child play while I follow them around engaging them in conversation and continuously shooting.

I take around 200 photographs during a typical shoot.

Crop- It is important to edit your photos to focus on what you need. If you are doing a portrait of one child and there is a slide, three other kids, and a dog in the photo it will help you to use a photo editing program like Adobe Photoshop to crop out information you do not need.

Natural Color from life study- This is not necessary but extremely helpful. After the photo shoot I will let the child play or read while I bring out my pastels and a sheet of paper and record the colors as I see them in real life. This is not a drawing but a series of notes I can refer to later. I will often engage the child in the process asking them to choose a color that best matches their clothing. Color in photographs will change depending on how and where they are printed. A life study is invaluable for true color.

For questions on supplies or photos, please email Vianna Szabo at: [vszabo@viannaszabo.com](mailto:vszabo@viannaszabo.com)