

# Community Education – Spring Quarter 2026

**Course Title:** Exploring Art with Watercolor Pencils

**Instructor:** Nathun Finkhouse

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## Course Details

- Tuesdays, 4/12 – 6/2
- 6:00pm to 8:00pm
- Columbia Tech Center Campus, 18700 SE Mill Plain Blvd. Room 316

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## Course Description

If you feel intimidated by traditional watercolor methods or just want to try something new, this watercolor pencil class is just for you! Over the course of this term, you will learn how to use watercolor pencils on various subjects and master the techniques that make these tools so fun and accessible to even the most novice watercolor painter.

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## Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will:

- **Color-** Students will learn how to accurately identify colors from life and photographs and how to properly mix those colors by using a combination of pencil colors. Students will also implement creative use of color through exaggeration, saturation, and high contrast.
- **Technique-** Students will learn how to use proper brushes, pencil technique, and amount of water to achieve desired effects. Students are also able to use other tools to experiment and achieve various visual qualities.
- **Creativity and Imagination-** Students will build and strengthen their creative vision. Students will use the basic knowledge of techniques and artistic vocabulary as a foundation for their own creative expression.

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## Course Schedule

### **Week 1: Intro**

- Explanation of Materials

- Color Mixing
- Pencil Control
- Experimenting with Water

### **Week 2: Form and Value**

- Create Value and Blending Charts
- Shade 3 dimensional forms

### **Week 3: Textures**

- Texture Swatches and other techniques

### **Week 4: Preparation for First Project**

- Make Color and Texture Studies
- Discuss how to prepare for a project

### **Week 5: Start Project**

- Draw
- Block in Colors
- Background

### **Week 6: Continue Project**

- Refine Details
- Middle Ground

### **Week 7: Continue or Start a New Project**

- Refine Details
- Foreground
- Watercolor Crayons

### **Week 8: Finish Project**

- Final Touches
  - Watercolor Crayons Continued

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## **Supply List**

All supplies are recommendations. It's ok if sizes, colors, or anything else is a little different. Just remember you get what you pay for.

- Watercolor Pencil Set- at least a 12 pencil set. I wouldn't get any more than a 36 set. I use the Derwent brand, but there are a lot of other options.

- Brushes- Flat Brushes and Round Brushes in large, medium, and small sizes, Rigger Brush, and a medium sized Fan Brush
  - Watercolor Paper-140 cold or hot press, various sizes depending on preference. 9x12, 11x14. They also make blank watercolor greeting cards and postcards if you want fun gift ideas.
  - #2 Pencil
  - Masking Tape
  - Eraser (Regular and Kneaded)
  - Watercolor Crayons and Pens- a small set is fine. I use Staedtler, but most brands will be fine. (Recommended)
  - Sketchbooks or Drawing Pads (at least 8.5"x11") (Recommended)
  - Photo References (Recommended)
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## Class Evaluation

- Class evaluations are sent by email.
  - If you don't see it right away, check your **junk/spam folder**.
  - Evaluations are **anonymous** and come directly from Clark College.
  - If you don't receive one, contact:
    - Email: [continuingeducation@clark.edu](mailto:continuingeducation@clark.edu)
    - Phone: 360-992-2939
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## Inclement Weather

- If the college closes due to weather, updates will appear at [www.clark.edu](http://www.clark.edu)
  - Community Education may also cancel classes independently if travel is unsafe.
  - If canceled, you will be notified by both phone and email.
  - Please check that your contact information is correct on the class roster.
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