

Making Pastels

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Pastels, even though they are made up of a pigment and a binder, are categorized as a dry media because the binder is a vehicle and is not very strong. The gum Arabic used to bind the pigment is a mix of glycoproteins and polysaccharides. It is the gum that makes the solution more viscous when added to the pigment. This is possible because the solvent evaporates, leaving the finished dry stick. Pastels have been used by the masters over hundreds of decades, especially by the Impressionists of the 1800' s, such as Claude Monet. I chose to depict a landscape in my pastel drawing because that is a popular traditional subject matter for pastel pieces.

