

Pastel - Weird Pyramid Colton Latting

Pastels have been around for centuries and in that time have been used

extensively for art expression. Pastels are unfortunately simple to damage, and the vehicle that is used in them is not a very effective binder. Gum Arabic is used to help get the pigment onto the paper and is a weak binder. Artists such as the 1700's Rosalba Carriera and Maurice Quentin, as well as the 1900's Mary Cassatt are all well known for their pastel artwork.

The gum arabic is what makes the pastels work. The gum contains both polysaccharides and glycoproteins which help the pastels draw on paper. The gum is added as a diluted solution. After everything is mixed together the solvent evaporates off leaving behind the gum Arabic, clay filler, and the pigment allowing for dry media artwork.

