

Should I choose Pastels or Acrylics?



Pastels



Acrylics

**A comprehensive guide to
the differences between
the two mediums**

*Parnell***STUDIOS**

Marla Rush Parnell

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Should I choose Pastels or Acrylics?

Soft Pastels on Sanded Paper



Soft pastels are vibrantly colorful and make richly luminous portraits. Their velvety texture enables me to paint intricate details and fine lines in my pet portraits.

Pastels can be layered for depth and texture in a painting. The medium has excellent lightfastness, ensuring the longevity of the artwork.

Because I work on paper, the size of your painting is absolutely flexible. I generally offer my paintings with dimensions that fit standard-size frames, but you can order any custom size you like, up to 52" wide.

Your pastel painting will be carefully wrapped for insured shipment to you, then delivered ready to be matted and framed behind protective glass. I will send detailed instructions for you and your framer about how to handle and frame your custom pet portrait. You'll be able to locally choose the mat colors and frame that accent your personal decor.



Should I choose Pastels or Acrylics?

Acrylic Paints on Stretched Canvas



Your canvas painting will be carefully wrapped and shipped to you, fully insured. I include hanging hardware so that when you receive your pet portrait, it's ready to hang!

Acrylic paints are known for their strong and vibrant colors, which retain their intensity even after drying. They are durable and resist fading, ensuring the longevity of your pet's portrait.

I paint with loose brushstrokes in my acrylic paintings, layering colors much like when painting with pastels.

All my acrylic paintings are painted on professional-grade stretched canvases, either 1.5" or 2" deep, depending on the size. I prefer to paint in a square format, but I can provide any size canvas you like. Each completed painting is finished with a UV-protectant varnish.



Pastels vs. Acrylics

Pastels are a dry, highly pigmented vibrant medium in stick form

Acrylics are water-based fast-drying paints applied with brushes

The painting surface is a professional grade sanded pastel paper mounted on acid-free foamboard

The painting surface is 1.5" deep cotton stretched canvas

The finished painting must be handled with care and the surface may not be touched

The painting surface may be touched and is protected with a satin varnish

Best for highly detailed realism with multiple layers of colors

Best for depicting subjects with loose, suggestive brushstrokes

For protection, must be framed under glass, either with or without a mat, which is an additional expense

Ready to hang without a frame as edges are painted and hanging hardware is attached

Traditional or contemporary, depending on your choice of frame, and is commonly hung on a wall

Modern, trendy and contemporary, and can be displayed on a wall or on a shelf

Due to the expense of materials and time to paint, my pastel paintings are priced accordingly

Less expensive materials and a more expressive painting style make my acrylic paintings more cost-effective

Thank you for requesting this guide!

Now that you understand the difference between pastels and acrylics, perhaps you've made your choice of the medium you'd like best.

Still not sure? I can help you decide.

Creating a custom pet portrait is a truly heart-warming experience for me, and I describe it as sending joy out into the world.

Let me send you some joy!

marla@parnellstudios.com

Website:

www.parnellstudios.com

Instagram:

[#marlarushparnell](https://www.instagram.com/marlarushparnell)

Facebook Group:

www.facebook.com/groups/marlarushparnell



Marla Rush Parnell

Bolivar, Missouri • USA

Award-winning canine portrait artist with a pastel painting in the permanent collection of the AKC Museum of the Dog, New York, NY.

Professional Memberships

- Signature Member of Pastel Society of America, New York, NY
- Gateway Pastel Artists, St. Louis, MO
- International Association of Pastel Societies