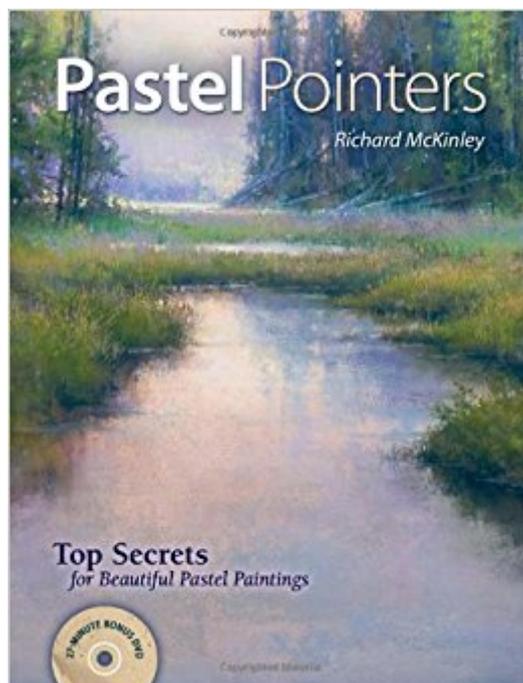


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# Pastel Pointers: Top 100 Secrets For Beautiful Paintings



## Synopsis

Top Secrets for Beautiful Pastel Paintings Richard McKinley has been a professional artist for over 35 years. Factor in nearly as many years of teaching experience, and that adds up to a whole lot of know-how to share. In *Pastel Pointers*, he lays it all out: information on tools, materials, color, composition, landscape elements, finishes and more. Compiles the best of McKinley's popular *Pastel Pointers* blog and *Pastel Journal* columns. Covers frequently asked questions ("How do I achieve natural-looking greens?") and simple solutions to common problems, such as excess pigment buildup. Includes a chapter on "The Business of Pastels"; tips for framing, shipping, preparing for gallery shows, and otherwise representing your work in a professional manner. This book covers everything from the fundamentals to get you going (how to lay out your palette, create an underpainting, evoke luminous effects) to inspirations that will keep you growing (plein air painting, working in a series, keeping a painting journal). Whether you're a beginner or an experienced painter anxious to explore the expressive possibilities of pastel, this is your guide to making the most of the medium.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (86 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #129,306 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #15 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Drawing > Pastel](#)

## Customer Reviews

This is another "how to" book on pastel painting organized into chapters with a few additions and variations that make it a worthwhile purchase. For example, most technique books have an obligatory chapter on materials where the author discusses his preferences on pastels and supports. McKinley doesn't go there, but does include a nice piece on making your own supports rather than buying any number of pre made papers or boards. It should be noted this author has a signature selection of landscape pastels available from Great American Pastels but, to his credit,

doesn't tout that particular brand. Instead he speaks briefly on the qualities he's looking for in developing his palette and encourages the reader/student to try many different brands to develop preferences. Also included is a rudimentary DVD (27+ min.) showing some basic steps in developing an under painting which will undoubtedly be useful to many who purchase the book. It should be noted that while this is a plus it's also a bit of advertising for other North Light/McKinley products as this author and his publisher have a couple DVD titles that I'm sure they'd be pleased for you to purchase. The bulk of the book covers basic drafting issues (focal point, rule of thirds, value, aerial perspective, etc.) and specific techniques involved with the pastel medium (under painting, strokes, surface texture). Filling the balance are sections on plein air painting, sketching, framing, air travel, and shipping of completed paintings. It should be noted the book covers a lot of ground not mentioned in other pastel guides and is well illustrated with the author's work as well as relevant photos of products or processes discussed in each section.

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