

Fairy Tale #4: Mixed Media



Little Red Riding Hood

For this lesson's mixed-media assignment, I offer you three oil pastel techniques to add to your toolbox!

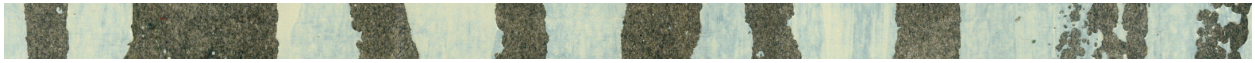


Technique #1 • Masking

Oil pastel on paper.

SUPPLIES

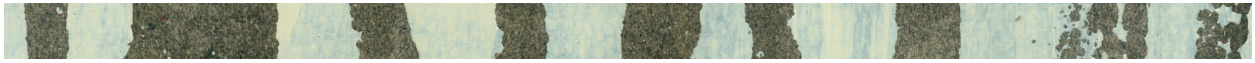
- a piece of hot press watercolor paper, or other smooth paper; size and dimensions of your choice (but keep the dimensions consistent throughout your experiments. I chose square....)
- several colors of oil pastels
- painter's tape
- white cotton rag or paper towel



STEPS

1. With your painter's tape (or other low-stick tape), mask out your shapes. Use a combination of rough-torn edges and the straight edges.
2. Color in with oil pastel (a); rub smooth with rag or paper towel (b).
3. Add drawn details with second color.
4. Peel tape off, add final details.





Technique #2 • Masking & Scratching

Acrylic and oil pastel on paper.

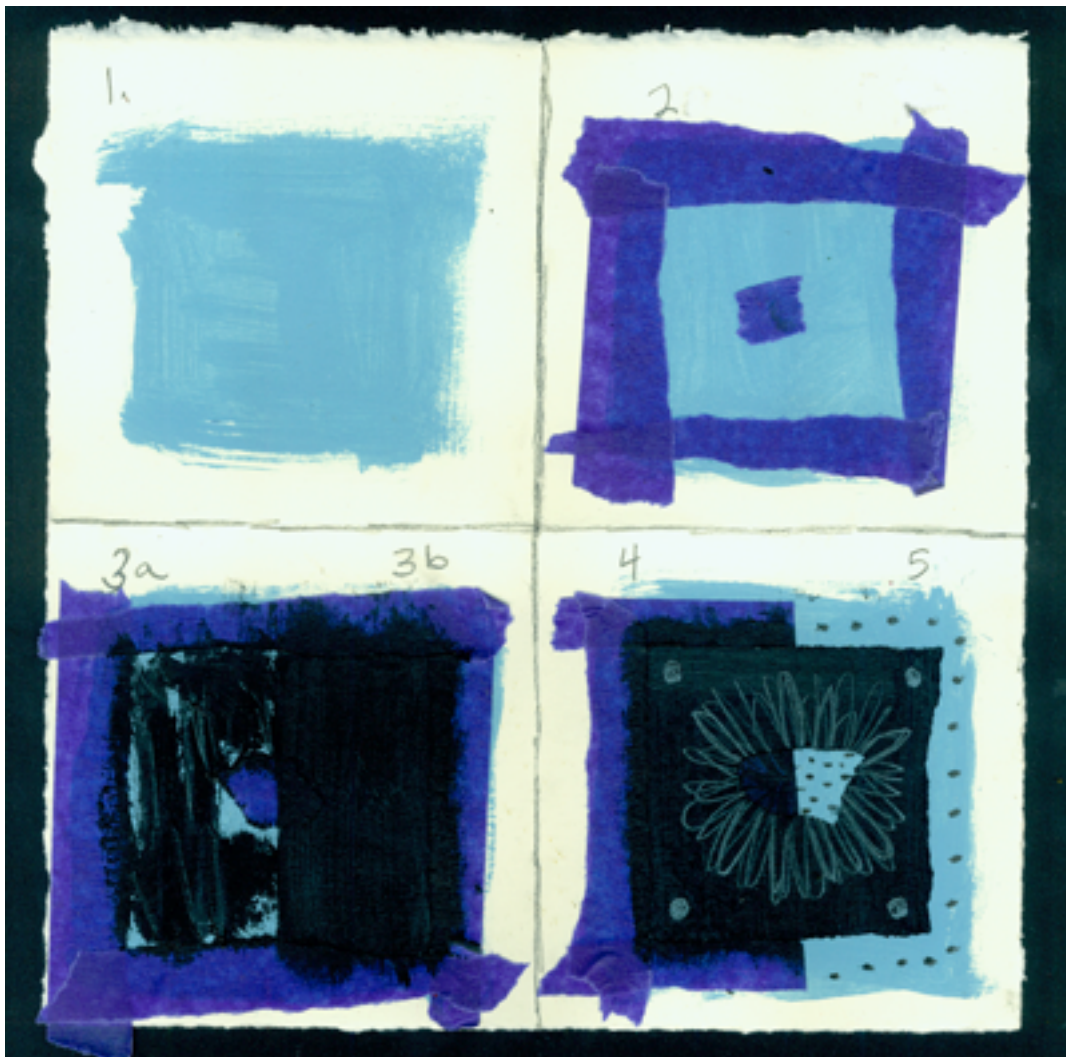
SUPPLIES

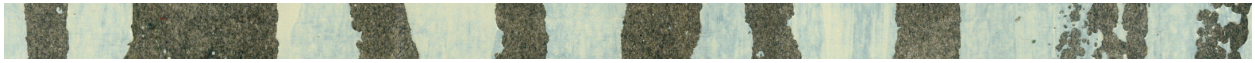
- a piece of hot press watercolor paper, or other smooth paper; size and dimensions of your choice.
- one color of oil pastel
- painter's tape
- white cotton rag or paper towel
- white or cream acrylic paint, brush
- sharp tool (such as a nail)



STEPS

1. Paint a layer of acrylic paint over your paper; let dry. (The acrylic provides a smooth, plastic-like surface that the oil pastel will sit on top of, rather than sink into. I used blue paint for demonstration purposes below.)
2. Mask your shape with painter's tape.
3. Color in with oil pastel (a); rub smooth (b).
4. Use a sharp tool to scratch in line work into your shape.
5. Peel off tape, add details.





Technique #3 • Scratching & Lifting

Oil pastel and acrylic on paper.

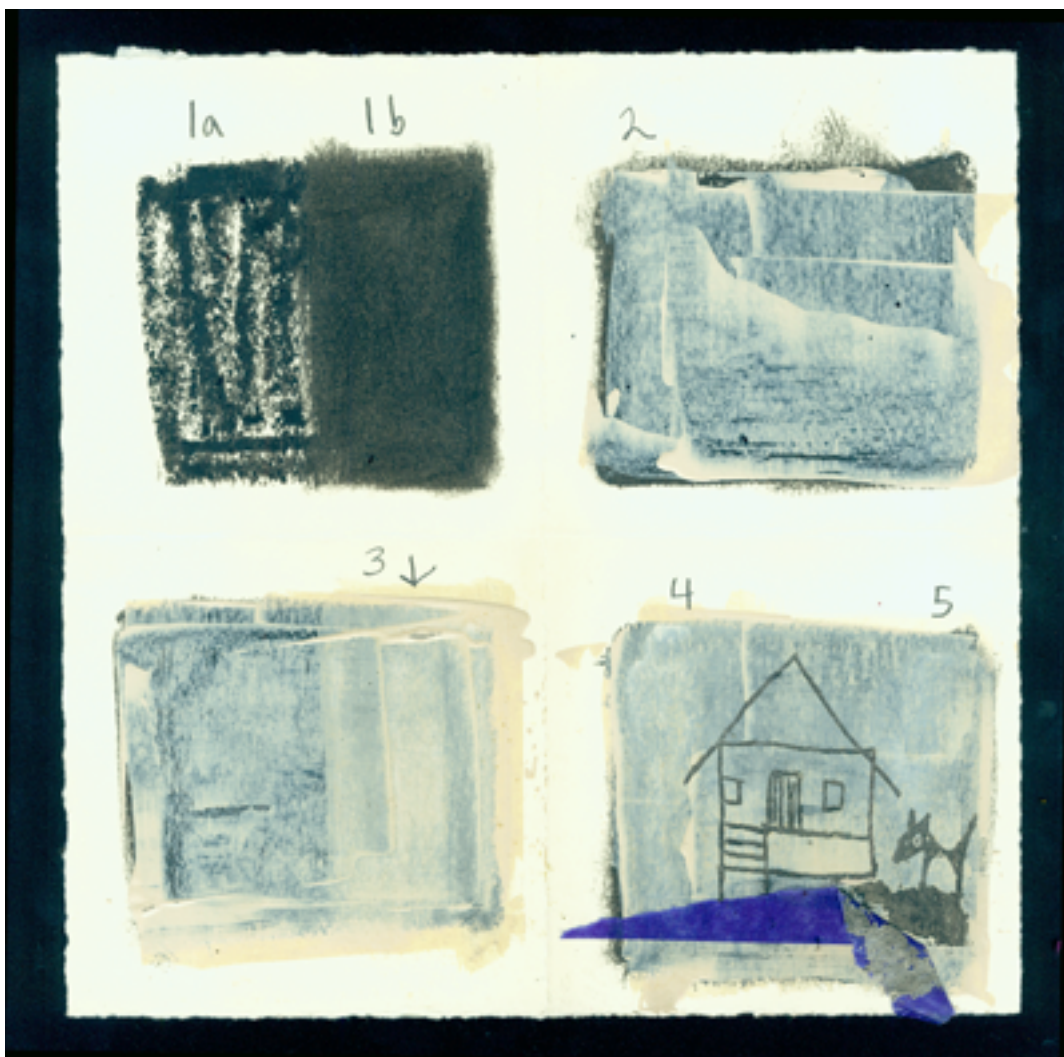
SUPPLIES

- a piece of hot press watercolor paper, or other smooth paper; size and dimensions of your choice.
- one color of oil pastel (I chose black)
- painter's tape
- white cotton rag or paper towel
- white or cream acrylic paint; palette knife or credit card; flat brush
- sharp tool (such as a nail)



STEPS

1. Cover the paper with oil pastel (a); rub smooth (b).
2. Using a palette knife, add a thin layer of acrylic on top. Let dry.
3. Optionally, add a second, thinner layer of watercolor with your brush to “even it out.” Let dry.
4. Use your sharp tool to draw in your characters, etc.
5. In areas where you would like to lift off the white paint, use masking tape. Press down with your fingers, then lift carefully.



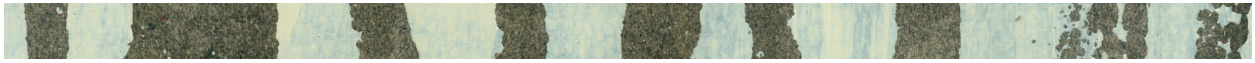


More Samples / Variations

Just some ideas for taking the techniques further!



Here the lines made from the palette knife were followed to help shape the house. (Let the paint tell you what to do!)

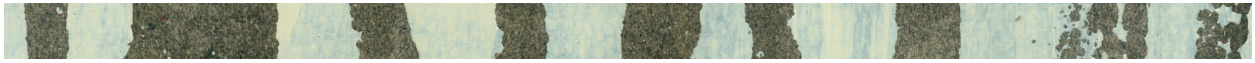


Here red acrylic paint was added with a small brush as the last step.



Here a stiff paintbrush was used instead of a palette knife when adding the acrylic paint layer.

Fairy Tale #4 • Little Red Riding Hood



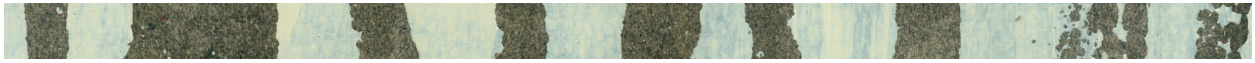
These two illustrations are on black-paper with copper oil pastel.



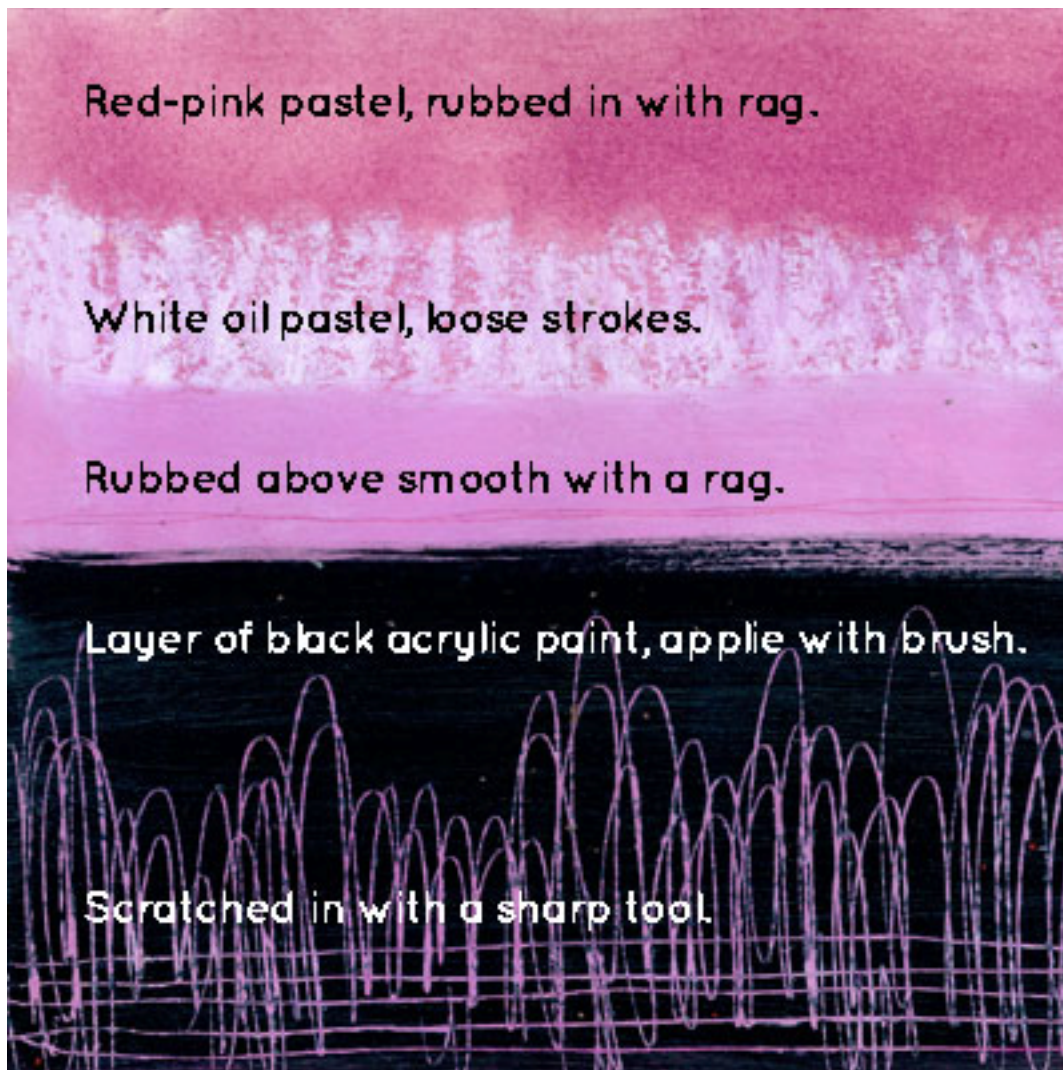
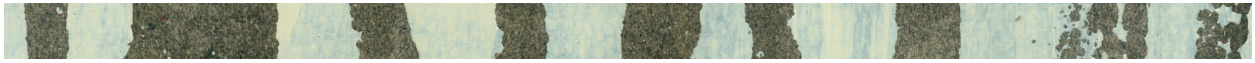
Technique #3, only instead of using black oil pastel and covering with light paint, use white oil pastel and cover it with black.



Technique #3: *Added multiple colors on the oil pastel layer; black paint on top.
Background was scraped with edge of the palette knife.*

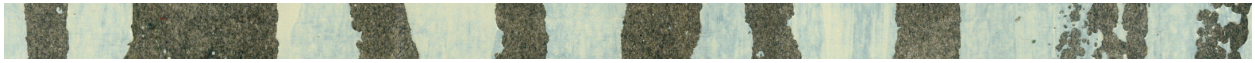


Go crazy with color! Add chalk pastels!
This one started with lime green oil pastel, then red acrylic,
then black acrylic, then scratching back, then gray PanPastel.



And here are a couple of experiments showing the progressions.





And finally...



Troubleshooting Tip: For some reason on this one the paint wanted to flake away. So I covered the whole thing with gel medium and it worked as sort of a glue to make the piece sturdier.

PHEW!

Now your assignment is to do at least three scenes from your “Little Red Riding Hood” storyboard, using some or all of these new techniques.

Have fun, and we’ll see you next time!