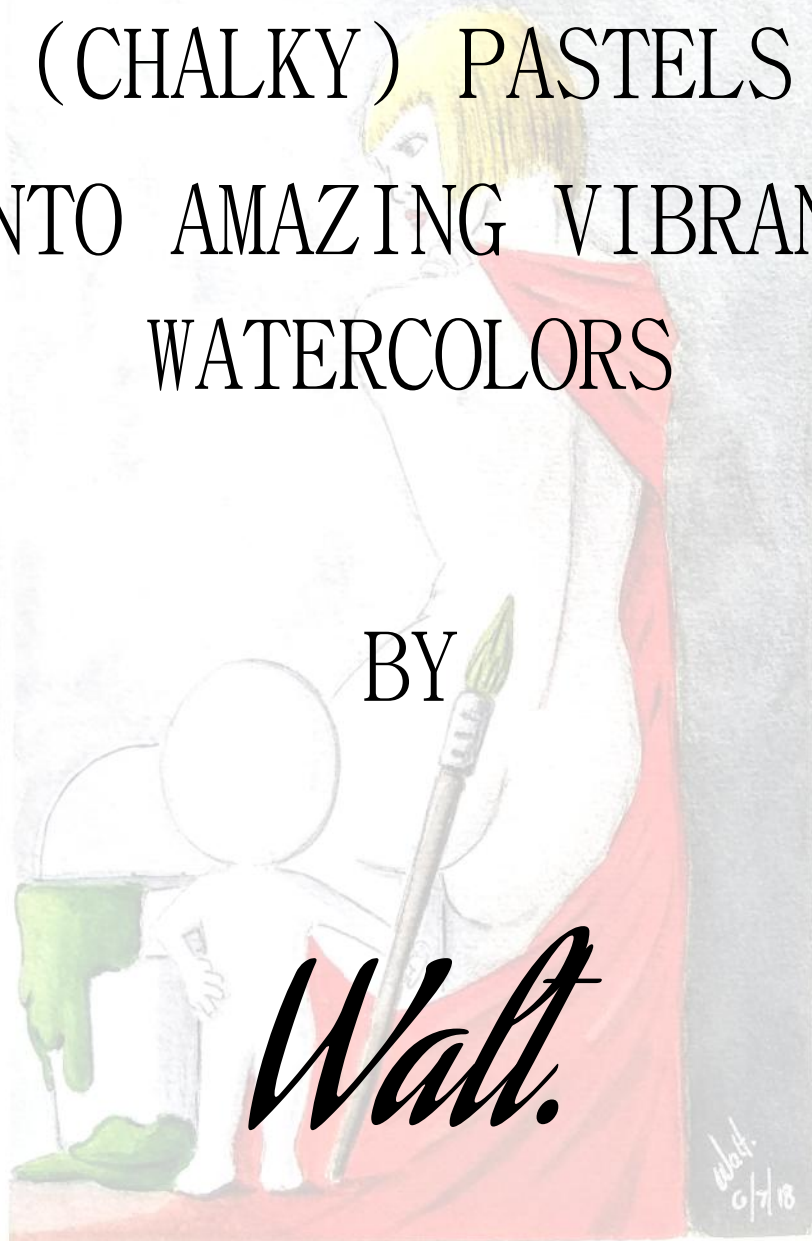


CONVERTING YOUR SOFT
(CHALKY) PASTELS
INTO AMAZING VIBRANT
WATERCOLORS

BY

Walt.



I want to share with you all what I have done in my watercolor studies and research... I have taken a set of Soft Pastels that I had for a long time in my art supplies. I grind them (color by color) by using an X-acto knife and then a small mortar to produce a fine powder...



Once we have this powder on the various colors provided by the soft pastels, we need to prepare our binding agent.

After various intents I have concluded that the best formula is this one: $\frac{1}{4}$ spoon of Gum Arabic, 2 drops of Glycerin and 1 drop of Honey; and add 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ quarter spoon of pigment. This will fill 1 half pan....



Now you will mix all these elements together over a glass or ceramic surface.... Remember that you will have to grind the mixture with a glass muller, so your surface has to provide a good space for this operation.





The amount of time of this operation will vary depending on the pigment. Normally the strongest pigment like blues will require more time on the muller. But if you did a good job on the grinding process, it should not take that long...

After a while your color is ready, if the viscosity is too strong you might use a little of water, because you will have to scrape all the color from the muller and the surface to place it into a watercolor pan...



So you can use one of the art spatulas available for the process.

Let me show you what I have produced with this..... It's been an interesting journey on understanding the magic of watercolor. So let me show you with some photos...



Here is the colors I have produce, I place them into a metal box. I took an Ice Making pallet and cut it to my needs, which I set up for 24 cavities for my colors.

The first row is simply skin colors I have created by mixing various powders from my soft pastels.

The process was extraordinary educational in all the senses....



Here you can see better the various colors and tones I have produce.

Let me share with you some Sketch Paintings done with these colors:



Under the Tree



A Barn



Old Boat Visitors

I truly hope this could be an inspiration to you, and drive you to experiment... I tell you, is not only very educational, but is extremely FUN!!!!

