



Presents

Glen Donley – Crayons, an Unexpected Medium

I grew up in Long Beach, California in the 50's and 60's and as a child, I always had many interests. As far back as I can remember, I loved to draw and hoped that one day I would paint with oils. I appreciated artists who painted photo realistically in oils. Some of my favorite artists were American artists Charles M. Russell and Frederic Remington and classic artist Michael Angelo.

When I was about nine or ten years old, my mother, who was prodded by my elementary school teachers, started me with some private art lessons from Athena Hall, who was a well known art teacher in Long Beach, California. Eventually, I did paint with oils, but Athena insisted that for two years we would practice with only pencil and crayon. She said, "Don't just color lightly, mash them down, and mix the colors. You can make crayons look like oil paint if you work at it."

This was a hard proposition for a ten year old, and in fact, I was *insulted* that the teacher would want me to work so long at coloring with crayons....after all, I had colored with crayons in a coloring book, and staying in the lines seemed rather boring. Ms. Hall taught me to mix my crayon colors as if using a pallet of paint. I wanted my pictures to look real,and I am still working at it.

As an adult, my interest in fine art photography developed into what I believed would be a life-long passion. I was privileged to get first hand instruction from some greats like Alan Ross, Ruth Bernhard, King Dexter, Marie Cosindas, Ernst Haas and Ansel Adams. I certainly benefited from those years learning composition, darkroom techniques, and the range and influence of light.

Later in life, I decided again. While I loved photography, in the back of my mind I had never forgotten the joy, satisfaction, and even the smell of crayon wax on paper.

Painting with crayons as a fine art medium is, shall we say, **unexpected**.

Keep your crayons sharp, and remember to start with the highlights and light colors first as opposed to last as when working with oils. At times, I mash and blend the colors, and then, in the next moment I use light pressure to create a different effect. I have rekindled my passion for painting with crayons as a fine art.....these are the same Crayola Crayons we all used in elementary school.

Crayon and paper, respect it, it's kind of an unexpected medium but one I think we can all relate to.

