Rita Kirkman Pastel Workshop
Supply List

Pastels:
Bring whatever you have that you are used to using.
If you are starting with none, I recommend the Dakota Pastel Samplers, or the “Tastiest Pastel Samplers” from fineartstore.com. These are several sticks from different professional brands. They come in different color groupings. This is the best way to try different brands to see which you like best, as they all have their own ‘feel’. Some other good options are half-stick sets. Many brands have these now for the budget-conscious. If your budget is larger, some hard pastels (Rembrandt, Nupastel) can also be very useful.

My favorite brands are Terry Ludwig, Girault, Unison and Diane Townsend Terrages. I have a few staple colors in my palette including Girault #376 burnt madder (my dark brown), Terry Ludwig Eggplant (V100) (my rich black), and a Diane Townsend Terrages very light cad yellow *(this color # has changed – check with me for update!)*

2 or 3 warm (brown or sepia or orange) pastel pencils in some mid-values and a dark value, for your drawing.

Surfaces:
I will be demoing on smooth [hot-pressed] watercolor paper or medium to heavy weight smooth Bristol. I will use medium sized sheets which allow several smaller demos on one sheet. Get any size that you can divide into painting sizes from 4x6 to 8x10. It might be good to stretch and tape a couple of your papers ahead of time. (Great tutorial here! https://youtu.be/bjOqBiJg0lY)

Primers: We will use warm-toned pastel primers to create the under-paintings. These are Golden brand “Pumice Gel – Fine” with Golden brand “Quinacridone nickel azo gold” fluid acrylic color added, followed with Art Spectrum pastel & multimedia primer in the “Terra Cotta” color. (These can be found at DickBlick.com)
NOTE: alternatives to the Golden Fine Pumice Gel include “Golden Pastel Ground” and some brands of clear gesso (if it says it can be used as pastel ground.)
I will also be sharing my primers, but if you want to bring your own, bring a short, squat jam or babyfood jar and I will show you how to mix the gold color.

(OPTIONAL: My favorite surface to apply the primers onto is actually Gatorboard, but for space constraints of flying I’ll be using paper in this workshop instead. You can get Gatorboard online [sometimes called Gator Foam or Gatorfoam Board. Be sure it has “gator” in the name, and get the 3/16” thickness, in white.])

Old bristle brushes or squares of foam sponge for applying the primers.

Photos of your preferred subjects. NOTE: Photos that have a definite sunlight source with visible light and shadow patterns will help you achieve a sense of warm light with the underpainting. I will bring plenty of extra photos as well. With luck you might complete 1-2 paintings each day of the workshop.

Portable easel
Drop cloth for under workspace
Hardboard/drawing board for taping your paper to (or your Gatorboard)
Water spray bottle or sponge for wetting paper, and gummed paper tape for taping your paper edges
Piece of tin foil or stiff paper for ‘dust-catcher’ under board (same width as board)
Old rag, paper towels, clips, masking tape, scissors
Wet wipes for cleaning hands, a ‘barrier’ type lotion or latex gloves if preferred.
2 “L” shaped pieces of an old matt board no smaller than your photos. For cropping your pics.
Optional: Pencil and ruler for gridding your photo if you need assistance with your drawing.
Optional: and/or some sheets of white copy paper for sketching your composition to size
Optional: Electronic tablet for viewing your digital photos
Optional: Paper plate(s) for borrowing my primers.
Glassine pieces for covering your pastel paintings
Apron/smock to protect clothes (or just wear old painting clothes)
A spirit of adventure!