Oil Pastel Landscapes: Blending Sky, Ground and Foreground

Topic reference / ordinary illustration



Ordinary topic reference. Hypothetical dimensions in the four tasks are supplied in their own text; this illustration is not their measured answer.

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Worked example / complete source key

On a 20 cm by 15 cm plate, plan a sky band 6 cm deep, a midground 4 cm deep, and a foreground 5 cm deep. Describe the blending sequence and one check.

Answer: Mark the zones from the top: sky 6 cm, midground 4 cm, foreground 5 cm. Lay the lightest sky color at the top, overlap the medium sky color by one finger width, and smudge downward. Blend the lowest sky color into the midground with a light horizontal smudge. Lay the midground in broader strokes, lighter near the horizon. Lay the foreground base, add one accent in short strokes, and blend selectively. Check at arm's length: no hard stripe and a gradual value change from sky to foreground.