



Colored Pencil Workshop

Supply List and General Information Review

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Supply list: Prismacolor Colored Pencils or any artist quality wax or oil based colored pencils. Brands such as Lyra, Caran d’Ache, Faber Castel, and Derwent all have artist quality colored pencils. Colorless Blenders are very handy to have (not solvent based) **Please do not bring water soluble.**

Paper: Rising Museum Board 4Ply (I will bring a lot of this with me to the class for you this time) any toothy heavy paper will work. I will bring pieces that will work for an 8 x 10 image configuration.

Other: Sharpener, reference material, ruler, tracing paper, plastic zip lock bag for your work, sweeper, clear acrylic spray. A board to tape your work to for easier handling and support. A clean piece of plastic to go under your hand while you work. Solvents will be discussed but will not be used during class because of the strong mind altering odor.

INTRODUCTION:

Colored pencils have been used to illustrate for many years. Over the years, the medium was typically found on a school supply list for children to color printed and drawn images; and, in a cookie tin at Grandma’s house for boredom alleviation. Recent availability of adult coloring books has sparked interest in the medium for a relaxation activity.

Supplies Description:

Colored Pencils: There are many types of colored pencils but for best results always choose artist quality. Student grade will work using the same methods but finished images will not last as long because they are not lightfast and color intensity is limited.

Wax based colored pencils are pigment and dye bound in wax. The wax will come to the surface (surface bloom) so spray several coats of acrylic spray (usually mat finish) allowing each coat to dry between to alleviate blooming. Oil based colored pencils are usually bound with vegetable oil and do not bloom. Oil and Wax based can be combined on one art image, this would need to be sprayed because of the wax. Water-soluble colored pencils (sometimes called watercolor pencils) are the same pigment and dye color agent with an emulsifier added to allow it to dissolve with water.

Sharpeners: Electric sharpeners are best and they need to sharpen to a pin point. There are few great sharpeners on the market for this purpose so the never-ending search continues for the best sharpener. Any electric sharpener is better than a non-electric. Leads break easy especially in the winter and non-electric sharpeners break leads.

Erasers: Kneadable erasers are needed for this medium. There are other types but they tend to scar the paper surface and nothing will completely erase colored pencil once it has been laid down. Extreme erasing can be done with and electric imbibed eraser (imbibed = eraser with solvent in it)

Pencil extenders: Get one of these so that you can use the last quarter inch of your pencil without cramping your hand.

Desk brush: Sweep away debris before it becomes part of your image. A dry new paint brush will also work or you can tip and tap in a pinch.

Surfaces: Colored pencil can be applied to almost anything – keep in mind how it will be used, sprayed or framed before you go to the trouble. Thin paper and layered ply paper is not recommended – test first. Rising Museum Board is great because it is porous and will accept many layers of colored pencil.

Solvents: Turpenoid natural can be used to dissolve the wax or oil binder. Typically, color is laid down then dissolved by painting over with a brush filled with turpenoid. Choose solvents carefully, some will destroy your paper. Turpenoid dries slowly.

Plastic cover: Use the plastic sleeve or transparency sheet under your working hand to alleviate oil transfer from your skin onto your art.

Fixative: Spray with clear acrylic spray (I use mat finish) when completed. Three or four applications should work well. Krylon is popular, but spray a bit off to the side first to get rid of droplets on the spray tip.

Ruler and Tracing Paper: To help you get an accurate image to draw.

Frame: Artwork should be behind glass after completion and hung away from direct light. It is always best to use conservation materials when framing – UV resistant glass and neutral ph. mat and foam core. At the very least please use acid resistant foam core and mat board.

Things to remember You will find your own method after a while and it will likely be quite different than mine if you do this for a while.

- Colored Pencils are translucent so if you are mixing colors lay down darker color first then go over it with a light(er) color you will see the dark color through the light color. If you lay down a light color and go over it with dark, the dark will cover and blend with the light color.
- Colors can be mixed by layering alternate layers of two colors then blending with a colorless blender or white and repeat layers and blending.
- Always sharpen when laying down color especially in initial stages that need to depict contour lines. Rounded tip pencils are good for blending. Holding pencils on the side to cover a large area is ok if that is how you like to work.
- Sweep or tip and tap often.
- Keep that plastic sheet under your hand when working in order to keep from smudging your work and to keep the oil from your hands off of the work.
- Erasing with a kneadable eraser is done with a tap, tap knead and tap motion rather than a back and forth motion.

BAG LUNCH

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