



Colored Pencil Supplies, Books and Resources

Paper-Strathmore 400 series Drawing paper or Bristol Vellum 300 or something similar, good quality is a good starting place. Stonehenge Multi is lovely paper that comes in colors. Strathmore also makes a Bristol Smooth also which some people prefer. Try everything. Try both sides.

Good brands of colored pencils- (they all play well together- **buy pencils individually** - I do not recommend buying sets- you get too many pencils you will never use.) Pencils all have different names and the same name in one company will be a different color in another company. Faber- Castell has changed the names of some of their pencils so it is helpful to know the numbers.

***Faber-Castell**- oil based -loved by many colored pencil artists- nice lay down. **Best botanical greens**
Prismacolors - wax based- available everywhere in over 100 colors (some very unusual) - very creamy.
Brighter colors and a great range. **Best darks**- Black Cherry, Black Grape, Dark Purple.

***Caran d'Ache** - **Pablo** (oil) and **Luminance** - (wax based) - excellent bright, rich pencils- Pablos and Luminance are available at Village Arts in Santa Rosa, ASW in Westminster. Neither line has a good botanical green.

Tombow Irojiten- harder pencils in an interesting range of colors. Some good pastel shades and darks.

Derwent and **Lyra** also make quality pencils.

Most of these companies also make a **watercolor pencil**. I like the **Faber-Castell Albrecht Durer** series and the **Staedler** watercolor pencil sets. Fun for travel and use as underpainting.

Most "student grade" pencils are generally harder and therefore do not give rich color. Faber-Castell has a new limited line- Goldfaber which are not too hard. In general, with colored pencil you get what you pay for.

Recommended Books and websites:

Colored Pencil Techniques:

*Swan, Ann, Botanical Portraits with Colored Pencil, www.annswan.co.uk

*Hollender, Wendy, Botanical Drawing in Color, www.drawingincolor.com

Borgeson, Bet, Colored Pencil for the Serious Beginner, www.borgesonstudio.com

Gildow, Janie and Barbara Benedetti, Colored Pencil Solution Book, www.janiegildow.com

Botany and Botanical Illustration:

*Simblet, Sarah, Botany for Artists (my favorite book right now)

"I never read, I just look at pictures." ... Andy Warhol

Colored Pencil Basics:

Colored Pencil drawing:

- ❖ **Layering** - laying down color in layers to build up color by holding the pencil **lightly and slowly making even oval or small circles with the pencil**. You can work in the direction of the growth of the plant or you can make non-direction circles to create texture. Keeping the hand light prevents wax buildup and allows for adding other colors.
- ❖ **Blending** - combining two or more colors together to create new, more natural and interesting colors. Unlike watercolor, cannot mix on a palette, so all blending happens directly on the paper. We can however **test** out our blends on a separate piece of the same paper as we would on a palette.
- ❖ **Burnishing** is **saturating** the paper with color producing a shine or burnish. Burnishing can be achieved simply by the buildup of color (my preferred method) or you can use one of the tools made specifically for this purpose. Prismacolor makes a **Colorless Blender** and Lyra makes a pencil called a **Splendor**. You can also burnish with a pale pencil, Ivory, Cream, White or a light-colored pencil or a harder pencil of a similar color.
- ❖ **Impressed Line** - lines are impressed into the paper with an embossing tool before color is applied. When the color is added the impressed area stays white (or whatever color you have laid down first.). Used for small hairs, stamen or other details and lines that are difficult to draw around - sometimes leaf veins.
- ❖ **Underpainting** - painting large areas with watercolor pencil, pan pastel or markers to create a large area of color to pencil over without waxy or oily buildup.

Other supplies-

My pencil bag is the Derwent Carry-all available from Amazon.com.

My pencil sharpeners are the Rapesco 64 and my big red **Mitsubishi KH-20** which is great with Prismacolors!

Caran d'Ache makes a rough **water color palette** to use with water color pencils.

Keep track of your pencils with the **MyMarkers App** for your phone

"You can lead a horse to water but a pencil must be lead." ...Stan Laurel

