

## Forms in Nature- Creating Browns

Like many of you I was fortunate to spend several days last week watching demonstration of some of our premier botanical artists. I learned something from each of them. Two of the artists I watched who demonstrated colored pencil used the circle in all their testing. Margaret Best said she loves the circle shape and Ann Swan is also a fan of testing with small circles.



Working with seeds and pods, especially round ones, give us the opportunity to work with value- the lightness and darkness of our subject and creating contrast.

They also give us the opportunity to get playful with color and create our own browns to we do not have to be sorry for the poor browns, like Winston Churchill.

Try some of these mixes to create browns. You can work in small circles like Margaret and Ann and also work at creating form at the same time. FC numbers are suggestions. Substitute and experiment.



- ❖ Blue (FC 120) + Orange (FC 115) to make a Burnt Ochre
- ❖ add Crimson to make Terra Cotta
- ❖ Dark Red (FC 142) + Dark Green (FC 278) makes Dark Umber or Sepia
- ❖ Crimson (FC 226) + Green (FC 167) make a Sienna Brown

Add Burnt Ocher or Burnt Sienna or another brown to any of your colors. If you do not have the exact color just substitute. You may create a wonderful new color.

Try adding the different brown pencils over your mixes.

Try the reverse- jazz up your browns with some of these colors.

Try something adventurous like a purple or turquoise.

*“Let’s smash the colours.” ...Margaret Best*