



## Working on Mylar

Mylar or drafting film is one of many surfaces that take colored pencil well. A version of it called Duralar is available at most art stores. However we have discovered (thanks to Susan Rubin in Denver) that **Grafix Drafting Film, Matte, .005 2-sided** is a better product for layering more colored pencil. It is available from Dick Blick online. An 18 x 24 sheet costs less than \$4.

There are some nice advantages to using film:

- ❖ You can work over an already drawn graphite drawing.
- ❖ You can work on both sides of the film to create different effects both spacial and with color.
- ❖ You can add color on the back when the front will not take any more color.
- ❖ You can do your shading work on the back and then add color on the front.
- ❖ Because of the smoothness of the surface you have to work carefully layering up color. You need to use a **very sharp point** to achieve a nice effect. Many people prefer Faber-Castell Polychromos pencils, Caran d'Ache Pablos or Lyra Rembrandt over Prismacolor (too waxy) for working on Mylar. Try them all.
- ❖ You can mount your finished work on a variety of surfaces to different effects- colored paper, watercolor backgrounds, etc.
- ❖ It erases easily!

Use a line drawing of your own to experience the possibilities of mylar.

- ❖ Tape your picture over your drawing or draw directly on the mylar and start to color.
- ❖ Every so often insert a piece of white or gray paper under the film to see your progress. In the beginning the pencil will look scratchy and amateurish as you get used to working on a new surface. The white paper underneath will let you see where you need to fill in.
- ❖ Color will build up quickly so be careful about your color choices.
- ❖ Test your colors on a scrap of the film not paper.
- ❖ Remember that you can use both sides of the surface to get different effects- like perspective changes, brightening color, etc. Try the back!



“Chew your way in to a new world. Munch leaves. Molt. Rest. Molt again. Self-reinvention is *everything...*”

“Advice from a Caterpillar” by Amy Gerstler, Dearest Creature