



Colored Pencil Supplies, Books and Resources

Paper-Strathmore 400 series Drawing paper or Bristol Vellum 300 or similar, Stonehenge Multi which comes in colors. Both Bristol Vellum and Stonehenge take water. Strathmore also makes a Bristol Smooth which some people prefer. Try everything.

Good brands of colored pencils- (they all play well together- **buy individually pencils- don't buy 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 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 - very creamy, **brighter** colors and a great range. **Good darks**- Black Cherry, Black Grape, Dark Purple. Quality is so-so.

***Caran d'Ache** - **Pablo** (oil) and **Luminance** - (wax based, lightfast) - excellent bright, rich pencils. Different, interesting colors. Neither line has a good botanical green.

Tombow Irojiten- harder pencils in an interesting range of colors. Quality is so-so.

***Derwent** and **Lyra** also make quality pencils. **Derwent** has a new line of **Lightfast** pencils that are very creamy and interesting colors especially if you like purples and violets. Great darks.

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

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

Support your local art store. Most will give a discount with a supply list.

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.drawbotanical.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 for Beginners:

Colored Pencil drawing:

- ❖ **Layering** - laying down color in layers to buildup color. We do this by holding the pencil **lightly and slowly making an 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. Keep the pencil light and turn as you go to keep the point. We are blending in other colors and do not want to get too waxy too fast.
- ❖ **Blending** - combining two or more colors together to create new 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. Blending will create more natural and more interesting colors.
- ❖ **Burnishing** is **saturation** 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. I currently like inexpensive watercolor brushes with Taklon bristles cut short for burnishing.
- ❖ **Impressed Line** - lines are impressed into the paper with a 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.

Other supplies-

My **sketchbooks** are Stillman & Birn, Zeta series (smooth, takes water) and Moleskin (only takes a little water but I like the A1 size and color of the paper, off white.) Strathmore Watercolor (cold press, lays flat. I use it for pen and ink and watercolor.)

My **pencil bag** is the Derwent Carry-all.

My **pencil sharpeners** are the Rapesco 64 and my big red Mitsubishi KH-20 which works well with Prismacolors! **You need sharp pencils!**

Caran d'Ache makes a rough **watercolor palette** to use with watercolor 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

