

Laying Down Color

There are three basic things we do in colored pencil:

Layering-

- ❖ Building up layers of color with careful even strokes. These can be long ovals or small circles.
- ❖ Using sharp pencils to get into the texture of the paper.
- ❖ Working slowly and evenly to create smooth tone.
- ❖ Color can be layered light to dark or start dark for form and then lighter layers.



Blending:

- ❖ Combining different color pencils. This can be done very smoothly to create a completely new color or colors can be laid carefully next to each to allow the eye of the viewer to create new colors (e.g., butterfly wings, some shadow areas.)

Burnishing or shining can be done-

- ❖ With repeated layers of different colors.
- ❖ Using a burnishing tool – Prismacolor Colorless blender or Lyra Spender. Be aware of these when using purples. They can create surprise colors.
- ❖ Shining using a light-colored pencil (FC 103 Ivory is nice, yellow or cream for leaves, FC 170 May Green.) These will add some color at the same time.
- ❖ Pressing hard on a pencil will create saturated color and shine. This is often done to get rid of the white of the paper and often does not allow for adding much more pigment. Slow and careful layering and blending with a brush allows you to evaluate color as you go.

Always experiment and test in the same way you would lay down the color on the final drawing. Make your test marks large and dark enough to truly see what they will do. Blended circles are best.

We live in a rainbow of chaos... Paul Cezanne