

Do you know how to create the “Color” with Colored Pencil?

1.) You are an Artist = creating from what you “SEE” vs. what you “KNOW”

Artists use 2 thoughts when creating art work: what they “see” vs. what they “know.” For example, mountains in the distance may look to be blueish in color, but we know that they are made of trees, rocks and should be brown or green in color. Artists make a decision to create these mountains blue or green to fit their meaning of their artwork. Art is a visual medium — expressing what they “see or know” is how the artist creates.

2.) Define “color” + “color theory”

Color is defined as light spectrum refracted through atmospheric waves. The light waves are absorbed and other reflected back to our eyes. If there is “no Light” then we do not see “Colors”. We learn the names of colors from our cultural experiences and learn how to define slight hue differences between color shades, giving them names. (see attached color info from the Book: The Secret Lives of Colors by Kasia St. Clair) Sir Isaac Newton discovered how to interpret the light waves into colors and how in light, the “white” is a blend of all colors but in “paint” all colors make a dark, black. The Color Wheel came in the seventeenth century with warm and cool colors defined. In 1980, it was found that other cultures (Russian / Greek) did not have words for detailed shades of colors. That has become more of a recent (2000) definition.

3.) How to choose your colors + make your palette

Choose your colors by selecting various pencils and match them to your photo reference of the image. This is a “Main Color” that you want to end with. So, you have to look at all of your pencils to select the lighter colors or use your Color Chart to select those lighter colors. Lastly, choose the darker colors from the “Main Color”. And do not forget to include the “Complementary Color” (opposite color -warm / cool colors). Now lay these color pencils next to your paper, in order from the lightest to darkest color. Begin with the lightest and color a very very light layer. Continue with the same order of light to dark - maybe you decide not to use all of them. That’s fine. Continue each layering with the same order of pencils, which will maintain the same final color.

6.) When should a painter use BLACK colored pencil?

Black is not a color - when you have a dark “black” area, start with a color first - like Indigo or Tuscan Red or Dark Green. Then add Black pencil. If you use Black by itself, the coloring is “flat” in appearance, When adding color into the black, it makes the black more rich, and has depth. Painters usually mix their “darks” using Complementary Colors - by adding a warm color or cool color will create “Dark” color. Black can be added to intensify the “dark.” Use a color first - then add black to deepen the dark, therefore having “color” in your Black!