

Getting started with Colored Pencil Painting

These workshops are not an organized class, but are an opportunity to work under the guidance of experienced artists, thus learning from them. The following information has been compiled to help you get started creating art with colored pencil.

Colored pencil is a slow medium, but can be very relaxing. Using colored pencils as your artwork medium has many advantages. They are lightweight and portable. They don't require a lot of set-up or clean-up time or space. They are non-messy and store easily. We use mostly Premier Prismacolor Professional artist-quality colored pencils which contain a higher degree of pigment than children or student grade pencils. These pencils allow for a rich, deep and luminescent color. Finished drawings can be so smooth and pigmented that they resemble paintings.

Colored Pencil Tools

Colored Pencils Prismacolor pencils are readily available and inexpensive. They can be purchased individually or in sets.

A Clip Board or Plexiglas sheet is needed to attach your paper to for a smooth surface.

Paper – The primary feature a paper surface must have for colored pencil is its texture or tooth. Tooth is the valleys in the paper surface that hold the colored pencil in place. Most start with Bristol Vellum Smooth.

Pencil Sharpeners Colored pencils must be kept needle sharp most of the time, so a good sharpener is important.

Erasers The following erasers types are helpful: Kneaded, White Vinyl, Electric

Blue Painter's Tape or White Artist's Tape is used to adhere your paper to your drawing board. It is easily removed and won't rip your paper.

Transfer Paper Graphite transfer paper is used to trace your picture on to your surface and comes in various colors. Do not use carbon paper.

Soft Brush is used to brush away the residue left from the colored pencil. If you don't remove this debris it may ruin your picture. You can use a drafting brush or a soft clean make-up brush.

As your skill level progresses you may find other tools available for creating different effects.