

## **HOLDING THE PENCIL (PART 1)**

In Denise J. Howard's book "101 Textures in Colored Pencil", she covers how to hold a pencil when using colored pencils. The position of the pencil relative to the surface of the paper is important for colored pencil drawing, because it affects how evenly and thoroughly the pigment is laid down.

**FLAT** – Holding the pencil so that the side of the point is flat against the paper and stroking with it deposits pigment unevenly and creates a very coarse look. This is useful for drawing textures like rough bark, sand, and rock.

**NORMAL** – Holding the pencil perpendicular to the paper and using a circular/scumbling stroke ensures that the pigment gets fully down into and around the tooth of the paper to create very smooth, complete coverage that reveals no stroke direction.

**OVERHAND GRIP**- Guide the pencil by laying your index finger along the shaft or top of the pencil. This is good for strong application of color made with heavy pressure.

Experiment with each of these grips.