

## Do You Knew – Mattea Truppe

Sharpen your colored pencils as soon as you open your new box! Keeping your colored pencils sharpened is extremely important. Sharp lead points penetrate color into the tooth of the paper much more easily than a dull point. A dull lead point won't be able to deliver color effectively into the tooth's pockets.

Naturally, you may apply more pressure once you see that the pigment isn't depositing onto the paper. However, this can result in excessive color on the paper sooner than intended, and will be difficult to control the desired color when layering.

There's a variety of options you can use to sharpen your colored pencils including handheld pencil sharpeners, electric pencil sharpeners, cosmetic sharpeners, and a few others. If you purchase professional-grade colored pencils, try to use higher-quality sharpeners. Higher-quality sharpeners tend to have sharper blades that will minimize the breakage of the tips.

### **Electric Pencil Sharpeners**

Electric pencil sharpeners apply a force that is more difficult to control. The wax from your colored pencil can build up between the blades inside your sharpener. To avoid this, you can sharpen regular graphite pencils on a regular basis to help "clean" the blades. If you choose to use an electric sharpener, avoid ones with straight blades as it can break the lead.

### **Cosmetic Sharpeners**

Cosmetic sharpeners are specially made to handle pencils with a softer core like eyeliner. Because of this, its design can also sharpen colored pencils without producing too harsh of a sharpen.

### **Other Ways to Sharpen Your Pencils**

Sandpaper blocks can also be used as a sharpener by running the colored pencil across the surface of the sandpaper, rotating the pencil to ensure you produce an even sharpen point. You can also go old-school and use a knife to sharpen your colored pencil. (hahahaha)

### **Pencil Techniques**

A variety of techniques exists for drawing and coloring with colored pencils. These techniques can provide different results in terms of the coverage of pigment on your surface. Coloring techniques include stippling, hatching, cross-hatching, back and forth strokes, or scumbling. You can even create your own techniques. When drawing, you also want to follow the contours and texture of the object to create more realistic portrayals.

Well, that's it for today. We need some new people to write this article, Did you know. Let Mattea Truppe know if you're interested in the position.