

Do You Know

Doree has often told us that black is not a color, but it is the absence of light. If you use the black pencil on your colored pencil piece, it looks flat and lifeless. To make black with Prismacolor Pencils, use a layer of Indigo Blue and a layer of Dark Umber. It is better to match your black according to the other cool or warm colors you are using. If you mix more blue than umber, the result is a cool color of black. If you use more brown than blue, the result is a warm color of black.

If you mix the cooler black with white, the result is a cool grey. If you mix the warm black with white, the result is a warm grey. As you add more white to the black, the lighter the grey. To determine which grey to use, evaluate the gray that you see in your subject. Sometimes a warm grey is used for shadows on the object and a cool grey for the cast shadow. It creates more contrast.

While cool grey has blue tones and warm grey has brown tones, French grey are an odd sort of color. The tone changes depending on percentage of grey to white. Some percentages have more green tones and others have more purple tones.

Using Grey as an undertone can be helpful to mark the highlights and shadows when you start coloring. It helps identify the shape.

While blacks and greys are neutral colors, using them can make your painting pop!