

Color Pencil Workshop

Materials

White egg (hard-boiled)

Apple - choose an apple that has a stem and is largely red, but also has some parts with greens and other colors

Pencils:

- 2 Graphite pencils (2B and HB) for sketching original drawing and transferring it
- Colored Pencils: Prismacolor (wax-based) and/or Faber-Castell Polychromos (oil-based), Verithin
NOTE: Faber-Castell pencils are slightly thicker than other makes; thus, you should test them with any pencil sharpener you decide to use
- Basic palette of approximately 30 colors: (chart provides comparative versions of FC and PC pencils)
NOTE: Pencils marked with *** should be purchased regardless of which brand you prefer

Faber-Castell	or	Prismacolor	Faber-Castell	or	Prismacolor
Primary Colors					
205 Yellow Lemon		915 Lemon Yellow	107 Yellow		916 Canary Yellow
121 Pale Geranium Lake		922 Scarlet Lake	219 Deep Scarlet		923 Scarlet Lake
126 Carmine		924 Crimson Red	129 Pink Madder Lake		429 Pink
134 Magenta		1009 Dahlia Purple	120 Ultramarine		902 Ultramarine
153 Cobalt Turquoise		1027 Peacock Blue	146 Sky Blue		1024 Slate Blue
Secondary Colors					
115 Dark Orange		921 Pale Vermillion ***	136 Purple Violet		1008 Parma Violet
167 Green Olive		911 Olive ***	168 Earth Green		1005 Lime Peel ***
Dark Colors					
175 Sepia		948 Sepia ***	157 Indigo ***		901 Indigo Blue ***
267 Pine Green		908 Dark Green ***	169 Caput Mortuum		937 Tuscan Red ***
199 Black		935 Black			
Light Colors					
101 White		938 White	103 Ivory		914 Cream
Earth Tones					
187 Burnt Ochre		943 Burnt Ochre	183 Yellow Ochre		942 Yellow Ochre
192 Indian Red		944 Terracotta	186 Terracotta		1032 Pumpkin Orange
283 Burnt Sienna		946 Dark Brown			

Verithin Pencils (very hard - they allow for very precise details and lines): Canary Yellow, Crimson Red, True Blue, Indigo Blue, Dark Green, Dark Brown, Cool gray, Black

Kneadable eraser

Battery-powered pencil sharpener

Battery-powered white vinyl eraser (eg. Sakura) and several vinyl eraser refills

Paper: White Fabriano-Artistico Hot-pressed 140 lb watercolor paper and/or similar Stonehenge Rising paper

- at least 4 sheets in total approximately 8 x 10 inches or slightly larger for each sheet
- recommend buy larger sheets and cut them to size and keep off-size strips for testing colors

Spiral ring drawing sketchbook (eg. Canson) for ink, pencil, etc - 8 x 10 or larger

Drawing board:

either a piece of stiff cardstock or a hard drawing board large enough to hold the paper and leave a border around it, but also small enough to move/rotate it on table to easily access different parts of the drawing. While cardstock is not as sturdy as hardboard, the advantage is it is thinner and allows you to more easily store the drawing in a portfolio binder that has plastic storage pages

Masking tape both for holding paper to drawing board and for lifting color

Several pieces of soft paper towel (eg Bounty) and kleenex

Optional, but very useful: portable drawing light (so-called Daylight bulb), eraser shield

A small selection of photographs of flowers (mainly roses) will be provided for the main part of the workshop. Participants may wish to bring a favourite photo to work from instead of choosing from those provided, but the subject matter should be very simple and there should be very distinct contrast/shadows.

General Workshop Goals:

1. Introduction for Beginners:
materials, comparison of pencil brands (wax versus oil), initial drawing, transferring, holding pencil, pencil strokes, erasing and lifting, value, identifying color - color viewer, color wheel, palette, color temperature
2. More advanced concepts and techniques:
composition, real and visualized light sources, perspective, undercoating, creating color, creating blacks
3. Drawing from real-life:
(exercises: shade egg and undercoat apple) - location sketching, botanical drawing, still-life - photo backup
4. Drawing from photos (take lots, take close-ups of different parts of subject):
qualities of a good photo (eg. strong contrast/darks & lights, clear details...), editing, problems especially with perspective and proportions due to distortion, cropping, transferring to sketch
5. Using a computer to edit photos and sketches to create an original picture (eg. Photoshop or Elements)
6. Reference books

Exercises:

Drawing value squares (5 or 9 blocks) and gradation strip:

- pencil strokes: linear, scrumming, circles
- feathering and blending
- burnishing

Light source and modeling - drawing a ball, square, cone and cylinder

- highlights and shading

Drawing an egg using sepia - introduce concept of temperature

- sharpening: very very very sharp point - pencil dust - keeping the drawing clean
- creating vibrant "black" by mixing/blending indigo and purple (cold) or tuscan red and dark green (warm)

Drawing an Apple - introduce concepts of "undercoating" and reflected color

- use dark green (gradation) as undercoat for shadowed and darker colored parts of Apple
- use yellow as undercoat for lighter parts
- add color of apple to table surface in shadows

Drawing from a photograph

- main part of workshop
- periodically interrupted by short sessions:
 - subject material sources: ideas, references, legal issues
 - composition: light source, perspective, cropping, focal point...
 - drawing the preliminary sketch: use of grid
 - leaving a border for the drawing
 - transferring sketch to drawing paper - very soft touch
 - starting? Dark to light? Top left to bottom right? Highlights? Stick with and finish similar items?
 - identifying colors to use - testing on scraps of drawing paper - making a note of colors used
 - layering, layering, layering and more layering - soft versus strong hues
 - to burnish or not to burnish?
 - lifting color - using kneadable eraser, power eraser, masking tape
 - drawing with the eraser
 - drawing leaf veins and stem filia
 - creating lights, darks and value contrasts by undercoating with complementary colors (or grays)
 - using lively blacks
 - applying shape concepts (ball, cube, cylinder, cone) to a drawing especially when shading
 - applying fixative
 - recommend Krylon "Workable" fixative
 - DO NOT Saturate or pigment will dissolve