
Drawing: Colored Pencil

OSHER

Dates: Thursdays, 9/24/15-11/5/15, no class 10/15

Times: 2:00 – 3:30 PM

Location: Tenth East Senior Center, 237 S. 1000 E., SLC

Instructor: Bill Laursen

Course Overview

Week 1 (Tues) Welcome, class roll, CA, Osher announcements.

Supplies needed for class (see handout). Projects for new and returning students will be suggested at this time. Introduction to color and color wheel and vocabulary. (Thurs) Bill will demonstrate colored pencil techniques, care and sharpening tips. Returning students may begin their projects immediately if they have chosen a subject. Everyone will be required to find their own subject and must work from a source that is **ALREADY IN COLOR**. Beginning students are limited to landscape or still life subjects. No animals or people at this time thanks. Students that have had portrait drawing are encouraged to try a portrait in color.

Week 2 (Tues) continue and finish colored pencil techniques in your sketchbook. Be prepared to show the possible color subjects you have found in magazines, the internet, cards, calendars, etc. You will be given help in making your decision. (Thurs) Choose the surface you will be working on. 2 options are your sketchbook or colored mat board. Beginning students should use their sketchbooks at this point.

Week 3. 4: Begin lightly blocking in your subject with a #2 pencil. Do not begin adding color until Bill has given you the "OK" to do so. Since colored pencil is nearly impossible to erase completely, do not lay color down prematurely. Be patient, be positive and have fun as you learn and discover possibilities. (You will be graded heavily on your attitude and smiling students receive help first)

Week 5 (Tues and Thurs) continue working on projects and spending as much time at home as possible to be able to finish, but do not rush to complete your picture.

Week 6 (Tues) work continues on projects. (Thurs) **CLASS CRITIQUE** In anticipation of this day, please look in your course syllabus and read the page titled, "what is a critique and how can it benefit me?" This is an important activity that people enjoy, appreciate and find very helpful and inspiring. You are welcome to photograph the work of your classmates if you like, as it is always very impressive.

Welcome to Drawing with Colored Pencils! As we begin, please read and refer to the following suggestions and recommendations.



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Thank you for registering for the class. I look forward to your success and enjoyment using this great art medium. Bill Laursen

Everyone can expect to see quick results as they work with colored pencils. They are also fun and easy to use.

The best way to prepare for a rewarding experience is to invest in quality materials. Just because you may be a novice at using colored pencils, it does not mean you do not deserve to use quality pencils.

Better tools immediately get better results! Guaranteed.

If you would like a disappointing and frustrating experience, see what results you will get using sub-quality pencils. It is not possible to produce anything satisfying with poor quality supplies, no matter how hard you work at it.

Those points having been made, here are some helpful recommendations for ensuring your success in my class.

Colored pencils: These wonderful pencils are not cheap, but buying cheaper pencils is a total waste of money. Buying student-grade pencils such as "Crayola" will produce disappointing artwork.

I recommend 'Prismacolor' brand pencils. They are *soft, smooth* and *vibrant*. That's what to look for in any brand you choose to buy.

Please get a set of 48 colors. This set will give you a good variety of colors. If you can afford a larger set, get the 72 color set. Since Prismacolor pencils are sold individually at art stores, you can pick up other colors at another time. (There are over 100 different colors available)

A new and very useful product that I urge you to get is a 24 set of Prismacolor 'Verithin' pencils. They are harder in texture and allow you to achieve great detail in your work. The regular pencils are too soft and because the tip does not keep a point, it is virtually impossible to add much detail, especially in smaller pictures. You will be very happy if you add the 'Verithin' pencils to your supplies.

Another vital tool is what is called a 'colorless blender'. This pencil-like tool is used to blend colors together. It is **INDISPENSIBLE!** It is made of a firm, 'colorless' substance that easily blends colored pencil pigment. (Fingertips cannot blend colors) Get 2-3 of them.

Sketchpads and paper:

What sketchpad should you use? Your choice of colored pencils is your most important investment. Second to that is selecting a sketch pad. I recommend a size of 14 x 17". The most important thing to look for is a sturdy 'weight' of paper. The heavier, the better. Look for at least an 80# paper. (It will say on the cover of the pad.) A 50# paper is useless in my opinion and will not hold up nearly as nice as heavier paper. Touch the paper and feel how thick or flimsy it is. Thin paper isn't going to work! If you have had one of my classes before, you are no doubt using the 'Robert Bateman' sketchbook with recycled, 110# paper. If you can find one online, it's the best.

Along with your pad, please consider getting a Drawing Board. It makes carrying your pad much easier as it has a built-in handle along with clamps and large rubber band retainer. Choose any size you like.

Pencil Sharpening:



You will absolutely need to sharpen your pencils frequently. I recommend a 'canister' type sharpener that catches the pencil shavings and is easy to empty. I like to use an 'X-acto' knife or a utility knife. (Not as clean, but tends to lessen breakage of the soft medium.)
p.s. please bring a #2 pencil from home, along with an eraser, such as a pink pearl or 'kneadable'. (the latter produces no 'crumbs')

An 'x-acto knife' is the best way to remove layers of colored pencil as colored pencils do not yield to erasers!

Dusting Brush:

The best way to remove bits of colored pencil and shavings is to use a dusting brush. The human hand will always smear your work and blowing on the surface will not remove tiny flecks of color pencil material.

Miscellaneous:

A very handy item is a plastic box, such as a tackle box, with a shap-shut lid that allows you to organize and transport your art tools easily, without dropping and losing small items.

A smile, along with a congenial and positive attitude goes a long way to ensuring your success and enjoyment of anything, including meeting new friends.