Colored Pencil Tips & Techniques

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Techniques and Tips:

Finger Pressure and Density:

- Determines the intensity of the pencil layer.
- Saturation: The white paper fibers disappear, and the pencil work takes on a waxy shine. Adding more pigment is difficult.
- Example: Brown circles with light, medium light, medium, medium heavy and heavy applications.

Burnishing:

- Burnishing occurs when you apply heavy pressure to your pencil. This technique is used to create a smooth, shiny surface.
- A rounded pencil point is used to blend colors together smoothly. A sharpened pencil point is used for getting into small spaces and outlining.
- Example: Brown circle burnished with white, then yellow, then orange.

Texturizing:

- A fun way to add interest to your work.
- Place a flat textured object under your paper and pencil. Rub over it.
- Examples: Bumpy Fabric, Leaves (vein side up), toothpicks, lace and coarse sandpaper.

Light Play:

- The creation of highlights, mid-tones and shadow will change the appearance of a shape into a three-dimensional form.
- Light (highlight): The area of highlight on an object where light directly hits it. This area should be left white or very lightly shaded to create a realistic effect.
- Highlights can be gently scraped in a saturated surface.
- Cast Shadow: The shadow that is cast by an object onto another surface. Block in this area with medium pressure using a dark color such as black or dark brown.
- Example: black circle with highlights, midtone shape shadows and heavy shape shadows.

Highlighting:

- A. To depict a rounded surface, block in the highlight and shadow areas blending them together as you work. Use a base color (Orange) and two lighter shades (Light Orange and Mango).
- B. Overlay the darker shadow areas with a light to medium layer of the complimentary color (Blue).
- C. Finish with a layer of the original colors.
- D. Add a cast shadow (Cool Gray with a touch of Mango). Example: Orange ball with shading.

Practice Project:

- 1. Draw a pear shape.
- 2. Leave the center of each pear white for the highlight.
- 3. Add a medium-light coat of Yellow Green on stem.
- 4. Add a medium-light layer of Yellow Ochre over entire pear.
- 5. Use the complementary color (Violet) to add shadows and depth.
- 6. Add a light coat of Golden Yellow over entire pear.
- 7. Use Burnt Ochre for darker areas and shadows.
- 8. Add final details and highlights with White Pencil.