

Drawing Lesson: Colored Pencil Technique



In this lesson on how to use colored pencils, I will focus on the "**direction of your stroke**" and how it affects the movement and feel of your drawing. I will show you examples of the various techniques, and then you can experiment by drawing one of the flowers pictured at the bottom of the page.

Supplies:

- Colored Pencil Set
- Drawing paper, white or lightly tinted
- #2 pencil with eraser

*Faber-Castell creates excellent colored pencils of every grade, from student to professional. Get the best price for them at **Dick Blick!***



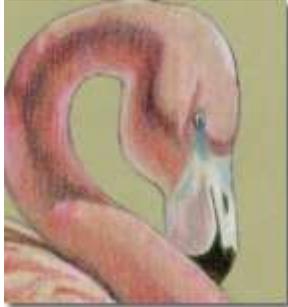
Lesson:



The direction of your stroke (in any medium) will add movement and feeling to your drawing.

Observe the **swirling strokes** in Vincent van Gogh's "Starry Night". See how they create a feeling of movement to the sky!

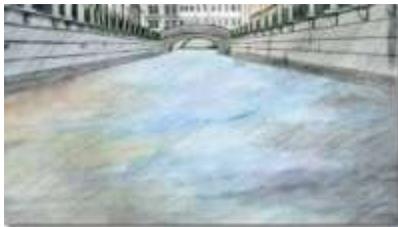
In a colored pencil drawing, the direction of your strokes will create the following sensations:



VERTICAL: Creates a feeling of calm - like a steady rainfall is covering the page. An entire composition can be rendered this way for an interesting feel.



HORIZONTAL: Will "widen" the composition in the viewer's eye. I only recommend this for parts of a drawing, like a peaceful lake.



DIAGONAL: Creates tension and a stormy feeling.



SCUMBLING: This is a technique used to create a smooth, "strokeless" tone. Using a very sharp colored pencil and a **very light touch**, fill in an area by using a circular motion. Start with very small circles and start to spiral around the center, creating a larger, circular area. Your pencil should be just touching the paper with no pressure from your hand. **This takes a lot of time and is only recommended for advanced students ages 15 and up.**



CURVY: Leads the viewer's eye around the composition. Good for rendering objects that have a curved outline.

Directions:

1. **Read** the lesson above on the various colored pencil techniques.
2. **Print** off one of the flower photos below. (Click on the small photo to see a larger version.)
3. **Sketch** it lightly on the white or tinted paper.
4. **Color** it in with colored pencils, using several of the techniques that you learned.

Click on the images below for a larger, printable version:



Try using strokes that project **out from the center** of the flower for this one. Use **scumbling** or a **vertical stroke** for the background.

Sunflower photo courtesy of US Dept of Fish and Wildlife Services.



Try **vertical or curved strokes** for the flowers with lots of layers of pink, orange and yellow. Just draw one tulip, if you like.

Tulip photo courtesy of www.geekphilosopher.com.



I suggest a **diagonal stroke** for the petals of this rose and a simple, green background using **scumbling**.

Rose photo courtesy of www.morguefile.com