



Smithsonian Associates

DRAWING TECHNIQUES: COMPOSITION AND ABSTRACTION

with Desarae Lee

SUPPLY LIST

As you consider supplies, you'll find vast differences in cost, value, size, etc. but art does not have to be expensive or overwhelming! I've made some recommendations below but for this beginner class, you are welcome to use whatever drawing materials you're comfortable with.

Required:

- Drawing
 - Pencils for sketching
 - I use Bic mechanical pencils, any erasable pencil will do
 - Pencils and/or pens for drawing
 - Pencils:
 - I recommend a small set of graphite pencils of varying lead hardness. Faber-Castell has a nice 3-pencil set rated 2B-6B. Blick sells a 4-pencil set rated HB-6B. Both sets come with a sharpener and eraser.
 - Pencil sharpener.
 - Eraser: I love a kneaded eraser, but you choose what you like.
 - Pens:
 - I recommend a small set of technical pens of varying nib size. Micron, Copic, and Pentel all make nice small sets. For our purposes, three pens between sizes .25mm-.5mm will work great.
- Adding Color
 - At least one of the following media, but feel free to use more!
 - A small assortment of colored pencils (I prefer Prismacolor)
 - A small assortment of chalk or oil pastels
 - Simple water color set
 - Small assortment of design-quality markers (Copic, Prismacolor, Faber-Castell)
- Paper
 - For warm-ups and sketching, any old thing will do.
 - If you are using dry media (pencil, colored pencil, pastels, pens), I'd recommend paper with a little bit of weight (80lb+) and a little bit of tooth (avoid hyper-smooth paper made specifically for markers). You can use a sketchbook or loose sheets (roughly 4-6 sheets).

- If you are using pens and markers, choose a paper made for that purpose. Weighty (140lb+) and smooth with no bleeding.
- If you're using wet media, look for watercolor-specific paper (140lb+). Cold press paper offers more tooth (texture), hot press paper is smoother.
- Match the size of your paper to the size of your materials. For example, if you want to use fine-line pens, choose a smaller sketchbook.