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FINE ART TUTORIALS

ISSUE 002

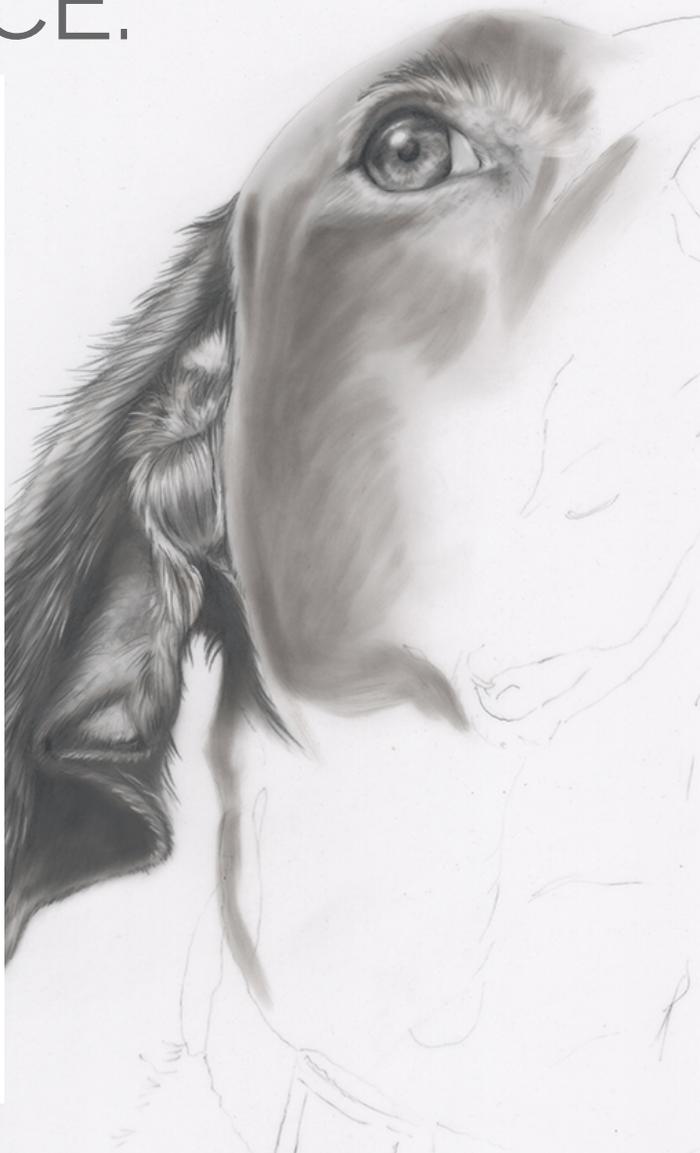
INTRO: GRAPHITE ON DRAFTING FILM

**MARK-MAKING, TECHNIQUE
AND METHODS**



PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE.

There's a reason I say "my art practice". My mantra has always been practice, practice, and then practice some more. I have made mistakes, had failures, and even thrown things into the bin. But in the 20+ years of practicing my artwork, I can say definitively that perseverance and continuing to practice, even when you think your results are crap, are what will make you a stronger artist in the end. Knowing and understanding your tools are all part of that practice as well. When you are comfortable with your materials - what they are capable of doing in your hands - you'll have the confidence to create whatever you like. So with that said, let's practice together!



WHERE DO WE BEGIN?

"I want to make one quick disclaimer before we move on. I am the type of artist that believes that having the right tools can aide an artist in creating beautiful artwork. I also believe that having the right materials can promote longevity in your artwork - helping it survive long after we are gone. But it's not the materials or the tools that make a good artist. It's their perseverance and their willingness to continue to practice. If you don't have many of the tools or materials I promote in my guidebooks - don't let it stop you from creating! See if you can apply any of the things I teach and apply it to your own knowledge base and the materials you have on hand. Just create and have fun! That's the beauty of art. Ok, now on with the show!"

First thing's first - grab a scrap piece of your [drafting film](#), and collect whichever materials you've decided to work with, and play around! If you haven't already, download my first guidebook about my favorite tools [here](#).

If you've never worked with this material before, you're going to find that is nothing like paper. But this is exactly why I like it, and precisely why practicing is a good idea before jumping into a tutorial.

Watch this 15 minute video where I go over the most fundamental tools.



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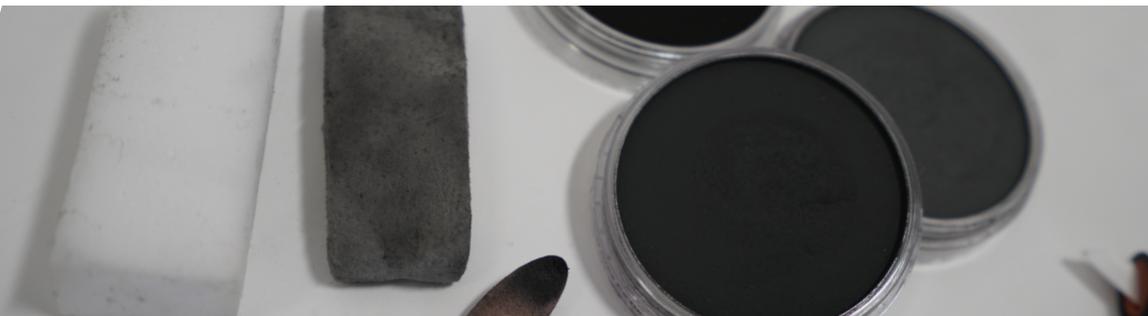
TIPS, TRICKS, METHOD & TECHNIQUE

Now that you've played around for a bit, let's get into some more specifics.



PANPASTEL - Great to use for backgrounds or for roughing in your dark areas. It's important to not go too dark too quickly with your pencil because it makes erasing (if you need to) a lot more difficult. Using the [PanPastels](#), applied with the Softt Tools [mini applicator](#) for your initial layers works well because it remains erasable.

MR. CLEAN MAGIC ERASER - one of the best ways to erase, instead of using an eraser because it doesn't disrupt the tooth of the film, in fact, it actually scruffs up the surface enabling you to draw more on top. The [Magic Eraser](#) is also great when used softly on areas that you've made too dark to lighten just slightly. On the next page, find a quick clip of how I use it.





POWDERED GRAPHITE & BRUSHES - Powdered graphite applied with a brush is the best way to add a larger area of a tonal value to your drawing without having to be tedious with a pencil. Dip your brush into the graphite powder then brush it onto the drafting film. Now try erasing it! It comes off easily. Practice different ways of doing this to create a variety of textures.

ERASERS - The kneaded eraser will be your most-used eraser. But think of it as a mark-making tool, and not of a way to remove mistakes. Your Mono Zero eraser can also be used as a mark-maker, but I rely on this one less, as it needs to be cleaned often.

SLICE CUTTER - one of the best ways to add very fine details, or to get small areas to absolute white. The above video shows you how I add very fine details using the Slice Cutter.

PENCIL PRESSURE - This is something that might take lots of practice if you're not a regular pencil artist. I have found that your pencil work can get very dark on the drafting film fairly easy, and especially if you're heavy handed. If you find you are having difficulty using light pressure, try using your blending stump dipped in the loose graphite, or applying the loose graphite with a brush to create a lighter tonal value. Another option is using harder lead pencils like 3H or 4H.



Now it's up to you! Go practice, and then practice again. And forget about comparing yourself to others, or letting any nasty voices in your head get in the way. Your practice is your time. And if you don't want to show anyone - you don't have to!

Please share this guidebook! There's more to come!



The next issue is a step by step tutorial, drawing one of the dogs seen in the videos of this guidebook. Until then, play around and get to know each of the tools I have suggested here, and try out the different methods and techniques I have offered.

And remember: Play & have fun!

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