DERWENT

Ten Top Tips using Onyx Pencils

by Kathryn Barstow

1 There are two shades in the Onyx range; Dark and Medium. Keep the dark one blunt for shading and the medium one sharp for details.

2 Create a tonal range for each pencil by increasing pressure gradually. This will give you some idea how much pressure is needed to achieve each tone.

3 Rotate the pencil between your fingers when drawing to maintain a point on the pencil.

4 Don't go too dark too soon. The Onyx pencil may indent the paper when pressure is applied and it will be more difficult to erase if you make a mistake.

5 Choose your paper carefully. A rough paper will give instant texture.

6 Use a paper stump to blend and smooth out lines or blur shading.

7 When drawing fur use a flick or a rocking stroke. Always work in the direction of fur growth and the length of the strokes should represent the length of the fur.

8 Vary the pressure applied to the pencil to introduce some variation in tone.

9 Use small circular strokes to create texture and smooth out with a paper stump for smoother tonal shading.

10 To prevent smudging put a piece of paper over your work on which to rest your hand.

Medium onyx pencil

dark onyx pencil.

smooth paper.

Tortillion/stump to blend & smooth shadow.