



Light drawing in graphite. As I decide I will only draw in color on a few leaves, I add a little detail in graphite to indicate the others.



Darkest areas of greens get more Tuscan Red underneath as it is the COMPLEMENT of green, slightly less dark areas get some Tuscan Red and Indigo Blue.

The goal is to make a range of dark greens that are not just relying on using a dark green colored pencil.



More layers Indigo Blue.
I could use another blue for the lighter
areas but I chose to just color lightly.



Now I go the other direction and add in the yellow highlights for the brightest green. I am 'reserving' the areas so that they won't get colored over too darkly with the greens I will add next, plus I am setting the stage for some nice yellow-y greens.



I finished the drawing at this point, not wanting to go to the point of adding even more layers and burnishing the color. I liked the texture of the paper coming through.



On this iris, I added more layers of color to cover up the paper at the tips of the petals and on the stem.

I was very, very light-handed with the Indigo Blue and Tuscan Red in the underlayers.



Bearded Iris
Chappaquiddick
2019

E. R. Whelan



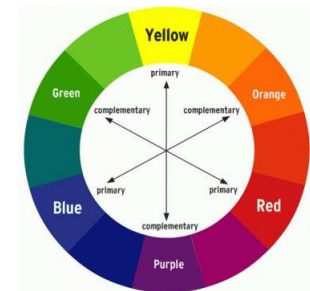






What colors do you see in these grapes?

Indigo Blue and Tuscan Red the darkest blues, Orange will dull down the blues as needed, and pink/magenta will make the purplish colors (along with purple and lavender pencils.) There are also green reflections on the grapes from the leaves... which can be made by yellow or green underneath the blue.





Pick one leaf:

Lightly sketch the leaf in graphite.

Using a dark blue and dark red (Indigo Blue and Tuscan Red if you have them) put down those colors in the darkest areas.

Next, use a yellow to put down the highlights and the underlayer for the yellower greens.

Proceed to add greens!



Tom Swinnen

www.Pexels.com

Colored Pencil: Drawing beautiful plants and fruit

- Interesting colored pencil drawings are achieved by looking for all the colors that you can see, or can build by using underlayers of complementary colors
- Choose a subject matter to draw that already contains contrast and complementary colors. Add a note of a complementary color if you need it, like orange or red cloth under green plants, or a red apple beside a green one.
- Mess about with your colored pencils to see what they can do. Each brand layers a little differently.
- Consider doing a mix of graphite and colored pencils while you get used to working with colored pencils, and for interesting effects.
- Look in the world around you for 'reflected light'. Once you start looking, you will see it everywhere. Being attentive to these reflected colors will make your artwork have some zing!
- Ask yourself, why? Why are the shadow areas right there? Why does that leaf change color in a certain place? Where is that reflected color coming from?

Elizabeth R. Whelan

www.elizabethwhelan.com

Instagram: @elizabetwhelan

Facebook: @elizabethwhelan

erwhelan@gmail.com