

# PASTEL ACADEMY ONLINE

## Charcoal – Materials 8 – 10 exercises

Charcoal is essentially burnt wood and it is the oldest drawing medium. For centuries drawing academies favoured charcoal above all other drawing mediums. Instead of putty rubbers, they would pick out highlights in charcoal with small pieces of bread. On darker paper highlights can also be added with white chalk or pastel. It is excellent for developing large tonal areas.

**Methods of using charcoal – using charcoal washes** and learning to draw with your putty rubber! Drawing with a rubber is great fun and so easy (many of my students have taught their children with this technique – that is how easy and effective it is).

### Charcoal Materials

Natural willow (twig) charcoal in a variety of thicknesses. Larger ones can be up to around one inch thick. (the larger pieces are sometimes sold as ‘scenery charcoal’).

Compressed charcoal or charcoal pencils (2B – 6B). Both of these are harder to erase because they contain binders, but they can make more detailed drawings, or finishing touches to willow charcoal work.

A kneadable (Putty) rubber, and a plastic or a vinyl eraser.

Cartridge paper (the same pad as in the pencil drawing exercises)

White or Cream pastel paper A3 size approx. (for pure charcoal drawings)

Mid tone pastel paper – grey tone. (for charcoal with white highlights)

Cotton wool balls/ soft tissues. (for blending)

2 – 3 different size Tourchons or blenders (cotton wool buds can work also).

Fixative spray (to fix the charcoal to make it less messy to store).

Drawing board – (smooth surfaced such as Foamcore )and Bulldog type clips.

### Resources for charcoal studies

A selection of black and white photography on landscape themes. ( These can be the same as used for the Pencil exercises)

Still life Objects, including symmetrical objects and plants,