

# PASTEL ACADEMY ONLINE

## Glorious Graphite

### Materials and Resources

Graphite was discovered in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century. At Bonaparte's request Nicolas-Jaques Conte developed the medium further in 1790 mixing the graphite with clay to achieve different degrees of hardness or softness. (The more graphite in it the softer the pencil).

**The Humble Pencil** – the tradition of graphite pencils and graphite sticks.

2B and 4B pencils, (drawing exercises in 2B pencil and shading exercises in 2B and 4B pencils). If on a budget – these two pencils will see you through most work. My advice would be to try a 2b pencil out or a couple of different ranges to get the feel of how different they can be. I also use a mechanical propelling pencils – I like the 'weight' of them.

There are many brands of pencils available, and I have my favourites, but my suggestion would be to try out a few, and make a note of how they rub out – some of the cheaper brands are often not as easy to erase. A range from HB to 8B would be ideal once you have decided which you favour, and if you are going to use pencils a lot.

### **Graphite Sticks**

What is the Difference between Graphite and ordinary Pencils? Graphite sticks resemble the pencil in width and length but without the wood of the pencil. The stick is entirely 'graphite'. Other large 'shapes' of graphite are available for broader work. Why is this so wonderful for landscape studies? Simply because of the breadth of stroke and the speed of the medium. Think 'painting with graphite'. It is a simple and yet fabulous development of the pencil which enables quick and effective tonal studies and with detail too.

A following series of exercises using the breadth of the fabulous graphite stick to produce amazing effective tonal studies on landscape themes.

### **Graphite Materials**

Graphite stick (are available from hard to soft like normal pencils) 4B - 6B

Cartridge Paper/drawing pad – white or ivory/cream tones. Try different laid ‘textured’ surfaces for different effects.

Plastic or vinyl type Eraser (for rubbing out)  
Putty eraser (for tonal work)

Fixative spray

Sharpener.

For all materials check out the drawing materials pages on the recommended materials links in the Academy – which includes a discount.

## Drawing paper/Pad

Drawing paper/drawing pad preferably spiral bound A3 size or similar. You can buy this loose, but most prefer a pad which will keep all the work together.

Drawing Board approx 50 cm x 35 cms– I favour a lightweight piece of foamcore – but any drawing board onto which you can attach your paper with a couple of bulldog clips will do. Be aware that some compressed boards may leave a pattern on your drawings – rather like brass rubbing. Foamcore prevents this. This drawing board will enable you to work ‘draughtsman’ style at any table, with the board on your lap leaning against the edge of the table – so that you will be able to see over the top of it.

A comfortable chair and table, and good lighting to work in. Consider your comfort and make sure you support your back.