DEFINING TINTS, TONES AND SHADES

What does hue, value, tint, warm, cool, bright or dull mean when using these words to define color when using colored pencil.

When working with colored pencil you are not only an artist but also a "chemist" (in the spirit of the word). You are building layers of color to achieve the exact color you have in your "minds'-eye".

That is why I've gotten into the habit of writing down how I achieved what I wanted.

Here we go…

Color properties:

1. Each color has a name = Hue
2. Color is either light or dark = Value
3. Colors are either warm (red) or cool (blue) = Temperature
4. Color is either bright or dull = Intensity
5. Color appears to emit more or less light (brightness) = Luminance

Difference between tint, tone and shade:

1. Color plus black added = shade
2. Color plus gray added = Tone
3. Color plus white added = Tint
This is just not only an exercise, but your visual color library you'll use everyday.

1. Pick a hue (color) I chose China Blue 1100 and modify it with Black 935, Warm Gray 30% 1052, Cool Grey 30% 1061 and White 938.

2. Using a good quality white paper, with a #2 pencil lightly draw a series of half-inch squares in three (3) rows of three (3) squares.

3. In the first row, color in the first square using the hue (color) you picked. Color the second square using Black 935. In the third square mix (layer) both the your color (hue) and Black 935 using a "cross-hatch" method, the mix should be approximately 70% color / 30% Black.

4. Do the same for the second row middle square, except use Warm Gray 30% 1052 instead of Black. In the third square use "equal" parts of your color and Gray.

5. In the third row middle square use Cool Grey 30% 1061. In the third square again use "equal" parts of your color and Grey.

6. In the fourth row middle square add White 938, in the third square lay down add a small amount of color (20 to 30%), then add White on top.

7. Punch binder holes in your paper and place inside a binder with any notes (like type/manufacturer of pencil used, whether the lead was extremely soft or hard, etc.)

As you build your color library you can experiment with ways to modify other colors by just adding Black 938, White 938 and Gray 30%. Nothing fancy just basic and simple.

Build your own colors and modified them, when you add the hues (color) "complement" color. This produces a more interesting "gray" than you might get by creating a tone with a gray pencil. Creating dark values with complements will make your piece much livelier and give your color more depth.