

American Society of Botanical Artists
24th Annual Meeting and Conference
St. Louis 2018

Colored Pencil on Mylar: Playing with Transparency
Kathie Miranda

Saturday, October 13, 2018
9:00 am – 4:00 pm (one-hour lunch break)
Room: Anatole

Mylar is a versatile choice for colored pencil. Working on both sides of the film creates a special brilliance and rich color. Learn how to adapt your usual working methods to achieve stunning effects. Topics include grisaille; color saturation; depth of space; back-painting with acrylics; and atmospheric fade.



Supply List

Please work in a small format: an image area of 4 x 5; 5 x 7; or 6 x 8 is ideal. Bring a completed line drawing with lines dark enough to be visible through the Mylar. (A cropped area from an existing drawing is a fun option). Bring any related reference materials (jpegs or color prints) to complete in colored pencil.

We will work on both sides of the Mylar. As you turn the sheet over, it is helpful to see your line drawing and reference photo “turned over” too.

Xerox the line drawing and the reference photo “flipped horizontally” (a.k.a. “mirror image”) - see my sample below. Xerox 2 copies of each view of the line drawing only - we’ll make notes on them. (If working with jpegs, you still need to Xerox the flipped line drawing but keep the flipped reference image as a jpeg).

- 9” x 12” or larger white drawing paper pad to be used as a backing beneath the Mylar as we work and also a tote to safely carry the work home
- Colored Pencils you already have; select colors pertinent to your chosen specimen – I prefer wax-based pencils Prismacolor and Luminance
- Colorless blender (dry, colored pencil type - not wet marker type)
- Pencil sharpener
- Erasers: new kneaded; Tombow Mono Zero 2.3mm Circle Shape; and Scotch adhesive putty - removable
- 3” - 4” plastic dish or watercolor palette to hold ink and acrylic paint

- (2) #2 or #3 synthetic round watercolor brush: one to apply ink and one to apply acrylic paint
- X-acto knife for small corrections and sgraffito effects
- Portable battery operated light if desired (no electrical outlets in workshop)

I will provide the following:

- (2) sheets 9" x 12" Grafix Dura-Lar Matte Film 2-Sided drafting film
- Higgins Black Magic Waterproof India Ink
- Liquitex Soft Body Acrylic Paint, Titanium White

Original Reference Photo



Reference Photo mirror image



Original Line Drawing
Xerox 2 copies



Line Drawing mirror image
Xerox 2 copies



Note this is a cropped area of the original image

Questions? Please contact me kathiemiranda@me.com

Instructor's Bio

Kathie Miranda is an award-winning artist, juror and educator of botanical art. She teaches at The Art Students League in New York City and art institutions around the US. She is an active member of the Colored Pencil Society of America and the Connecticut Watercolor Society.