

Techniques

Tracing



Stage 1 Lay a sheet of tracing paper over your rough drawing, and using an HB pencil, carefully trace over all the lines.

If the drawing is quite detailed you might find it helpful to put a piece of 'low tack' tape on the top edge to prevent the tracing from moving as you work back and forth across the paper.



Stage 2 Once you have traced all the detail lines, remove your rough drawing and turn your tracing over.

Lay it onto a white surface so that you can clearly see the outline and then re-draw all the lines using a soft (6B or softer) pencil. If you will be transferring the outline onto a coloured surface, use a white pastel pencil (instead of the 6B graphite) for this stage.



Stage 3 Now turn your tracing over once more (so the image is the same way around as your rough drawing), Tape it down onto your watercolour paper (or Pastelmat) and retrace the lines one last time.

Use a hard (4H or harder) pencil, but do not apply too much pressure. Using a really soft pencil in stage 2 means you will be able to transfer your outline, without pressing any indentations into the paper.

Using this process will allow you to gradually build up a collection of tracings which can be used in future drawing projects.

You can change the image by reversing it, or altering the pose/detail slightly to give you a drawing in a fraction of the time it would take to completely re-draw it.

To create a composition that is going to feature more than one animal, draw and trace each one separately.

Then lay your tracings on the paper and move them around until a suitable arrangement is achieved, before transferring them.