

Using Inktense Pencils on fabric

Artist Kim Bradley, a professional quilting teacher in Australia, used Derwent Inktense pencils alongside quilting techniques to create her magnificent "Duckbird". Here Kim describes how the 'Duckbird' was created, using Derwent Inktense Pencils, a sewing machine and textile medium.



Quilt



Sewing detail

The first step is to chalk out an outline of the head, neck and body, and approximately where the wings will start. The rest of the image is created using free motion machine quilting, which means you use the sewing machine to draw your image. To enable freedom of movement drop the feed dogs on the machine. The wadding is two layers of silk as there is a lot of heavy work with thread and colour.

The bird is coloured using the Inktense pencils from the 72 colour range.

To help the colour take to the fabric, use a textile medium such as Folk Art Textile Medium or Chromacryl Textile Medium (any textile medium should be fine, if it's too thick simply water it down to a thinner consistency).

Paint the medium into the area you are working on, it needs to be quite damp; not sodden, but not dry, otherwise the ink will not flow, then use the Inktense pencil directly onto the wet area. This allows the colour to flow freely from the pencil. Use the pencil on its side as it helps with flow and ease of blending.

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Experiment and practice applying the textile medium, and using the side of the pencil as well as the point so you get a feel for what can be achieved. Dipping the pencil end directly into the textile medium is a wonderful way to create fine detail, i.e. eyes, mouth, birds feather and feet. Dip the pencil into the medium then draw directly onto your work.

Work in the medium toned colours first of all, finishing off with the dark contrast tones and then the highlights, Antique White and Sherbert Lemon are brilliant for highlights.

Colour the whole piece and let it dry for approx 24 hours to ensure it has set properly.

Once dry, heat set it with an iron on the wool setting, using a piece of calico between the iron and the work to protect the quilt. Press and hold for about 20 seconds at a time. Do not be too forceful a gentle action is all that is required.

The fabric medium makes the image stiff which is ideal for a hanging piece, however if you prefer a softer feel, the stiffness will release upon washing (on a cool wool setting) without damaging the colours.

You may find that your pencils become hard if the textile medium dries out on the end (it dries like a plastic film) all you need to do is sharpen them and they are ready to use again.

Inktense pencils are available from all good art shops.

For more information visit

www.pencils.co.uk
Or call 01900 609599