

EAA February Zoom Demonstration
Monday, February 3, 2025 @ 7:00p.m.
Lydia Steeves - "Creating Critters Using Colored Pencils"

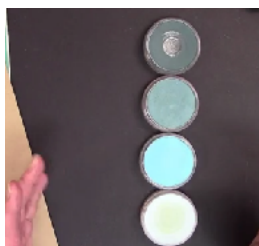


Many thanks to artist, **Lydia Steeves** for demonstrating **"Creating Critters Using Colored Pencils"**, zooming directly to us from Ottawa, Canada. We had 30 members who zoomed in to watch. Lydia, an internationally known decorative art instructor and designer, is a teacher of acrylics and colored pencil, specializing in animals. Cats are one of her favorite art subjects. She has been known to foster many kitty moms and their babies! Lydia is also a good friend and travel buddy of EAA Treasurer, Sandi Richards. In 2024, they traveled to Morocco together along with several other artists.

Lydia's technique using colored pencils is uniquely her own and definitely not the traditional approach. She started the demo by showing examples of her "critters" artworks, from small critters to the big guys.



Highlighting the importance of the background in each example, she explained how she creates interesting backgrounds using PanPastels, a medium unfamiliar to most of our members. PanPastels are available in an extensive selection of sets and kits in a variety of pre-selected color palettes. The fact that "they're not cheap, but they last" was noted.



Lydia's Colored Pencil Materials Supply List

- Prismacolor Premier colored pencils
- Stonehenge paper by Legion: white, pale toned colors, kraft colors and black. You can get the white, toned colors and kraft colored in various sizes of pads and large sheets 22"x30". Black only comes in sheets. They have an aqua paper now, too. Those come in pads. Choose the hot press. Cold press is too rough and hard.
- Gamsol Odorless Mineral Spirits (OMS)
- Moon Scrubbers by Scharff – a few sizes available on my website.
<https://lydiasteeves.com/proddetail.php?prod=MoonScrubbers>
Scharff at <http://artbrush.com/shop/Series-285-White-Nylon-Moon-Scrubber.html>
- PanPastels – That is what they are called and that is the brand.
- Neocolor II by Caran d'ache, water soluble wax pastel in White. There is also a permanent one, Neocolor I. They both work but the water soluble is kind of cool because you can use it with water to move it around.
- Caran d'ache: Pablo Colored Pencil, White is also a good one to get for guard hairs and sometimes white details as you can press harder. I also have a Black one.
- SpectraFix INSTAGRIT – a new find for me.
- Slice Ceramic Craft Knife <https://www.dickblick.com/products/slice-ceramic-craft-knife/>
- Most things can be found at [Dick Blick](#) or perhaps [Jerry's Artarama](#).
- * **Free Videos on my website showing use of PanPastels, using OMS and moon scrubbers as well as two Colored Pencil Basics.** <https://lydiasteeves.com/products.php?cat=31>

Lydia also shared her search for "just the right paper", experimenting with various different kinds. Refer to the 'highlighted' box for her supply list.

We watched as she rendered the 'red head' of a pileated woodpecker using colored pencils and other "Lydia" techniques to achieve a deep red color and the feathered look. As she worked, she

explained how she managed the surface and color choice, along with her techniques for creating texture and detail. The demonstration was a window into her actual studio time, with the artwork in progress advancing before the members' eyes. The Zoom demo is available for viewing on EAA's YouTube channel.....[click here](#).

