



Colored Pencil Workshops

with Kate Darnell

As an **illustrator**, I work in a variety of drawing and painting media. Colored Pencil is, for me, a great bridge between drawing and painting. I like the feel of pencil on paper and I love to layer colors on paper to achieve sparkling optical mixtures.

Unlike paint, which can be mixed on a palette, each colored pencil remains an independent color tool until it is set to paper. All color mixing occurs on the drawing surface with different color marks interacting with each other and the paper. I find this to be an exciting way to work. Although I have hundreds of pencils, I sometimes challenge myself to a limited palette of four, just to see what happens.

I like to experiment, trying different ways to make marks. I almost never follow recipes exactly when I cook, and I am the same way with drawing.

Planning a Workshop

Any workshop depends on the background and skills of participants and length of time allotted for the experience.

For short meetings and conference schedules I can provide a talk and demonstration about using colored pencils. This is usually not a hands-on activity, but questions can be answered and participants can see process and finished work. This format is what I recommend for events with only an hour of time. I generally bring examples of my original illustration work to show, and can also arrange to have a selection of my books available for sale and signing.

For longer workshops, a hands-on experience is appropriate. I usually start with a talk and demo and then, focusing on the chosen technique, “assign” an exercise and/or project for participants to begin. The balance of the workshop is of one-on-one help and discussion. I suggest, that for a 2-hour workshop, one hands-on subject is enough. For a full day, a wider variety of techniques can be demonstrated and practiced.

I have standard suggested workshops that cover particular techniques and fit within a 2-4 hour time. I have tailored each to cover basic information and general pencil technique and also some specific technique, but feel free to make a suggestion if your group has a particular interest. For full day workshops,

several techniques can be covered without a significant difference in supplies. Contact me for workshop descriptions.

For hands-on workshops, I prefer to work with groups no larger than 15-20 people. This allows me to give some individual attention to participants needing help. I can work with larger groups, but the experience is different.

Materials

I provide a materials list for each workshop. For most workshops, I prefer that individuals purchase their own pencils and supplies (The 4-pencil workshop is the exception) but some paper and other supplies are sold in larger amounts or sizes than one person would need for a workshop. I can select and cut paper and bring other such materials, adding the cost to my fee.

Fees and expenses

Fees for presentations will vary with consideration given to the total length of time spent with the group, travel distances, materials and preparation needed. But here are some estimated fee guidelines to help you start to plan. (Please contact me for confirmation of this information.)

- A full day: \$500 - \$600
- A half day: \$300
- A single one hour presentation: \$50 - \$100

Presentations outside the Lansing area may require additional compensation for travel and/or overnight accommodations. I can send you a worksheet to help organize your requirements and answer both your questions and mine.

My Studio

I have a studio in East Lansing, Michigan where I create illustration and custom calligraphic work for a variety of clients. I do not teach out of my studio, as its small size does not allow it to be used as a classroom

Other Presentations

I also teach classes and workshops in Calligraphy and, as an illustrator of children's books, I do school and library visits and presentations. Please contact me for details.