

Color pencil sphere- coloring a sphere with colored pencils, layering and blending.

color pencil blending

### Underpainting

A traditional underpainting is monochromatic, made with a single hue. The underpainting develops the composition, placement and value relationships right at the start of a work. Color is added with layers over the underpainting.

Grisaille – an underpainting using values of gray. (For this assignment, use violet or indigo.)

Colored pencils are designed to be layered as the light goes through the layers, hits the white of the paper and reflects back all of the color layers which is more exciting to the eye than just one color over the grisaille.

Colors used for a **red or warm** sphere: Yellow, orange, red-orange, red, violet, green, white

Colors used for a blue or cool sphere: Light blue, light green, violet, blue, orange, white

Choose one sphere to create and color.

This is one way to use a Grisaille, layer color and blend to achieve a richer color pencil work.

### Procedure:

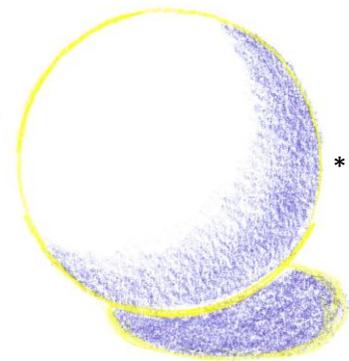
1. Draw or trace a circle with a light colored pencil such as yellow. If you want a blue sphere use a light blue. For a red sphere use a pink or yellow. For a green sphere use a light green. Do not use a graphite pencil. The pencil will smear and cannot be erased. A dark line around the sphere will appear to flatten the sphere which defeats the 3D illusion.
2. Decide where the light source is coming from and visualize where the highlight will be. Draw the cast shadow opposite the highlight with a violet colored pencil or the pencil used to trace the circle.
3. With a violet or indigo color pencil, lightly color in the body shadow and the cast shadow. This is the underpainting,(Grisaille). Use light and even pressure. (Underpainting can be done with the color compliment instead of the violet/indigo.)

\*\* The indigo or violet underpainting is used for both the red or warm sphere and the blue or cool sphere.

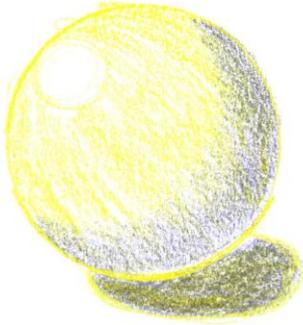
### Color layering:

4. Start with light colors – working from the highlight down to the cast shadow.

\*\*\*\*Every color that is layered on the sphere will also be layered in the cast shadow.



**Red sphere:** With a yellow colored pencil lightly color around the highlight. Color the whole sphere with the yellow. Color over the underpainting and the cast shadow. The objective is to get as many layers of color and wax as possible so they can be blended together in the final step. This is a layering and blending exercise.



Layer the other colors in the same way as the yellow in the following order.

- A. orange
- B. Red-orange
- C. Red

Color with light pressure around the highlight. Color with more pressure on the body tone and core shadow areas. Also add the colors to the cast shadow.

Blue sphere: With a light blue colored pencil lightly color around the highlight. Then color the rest of the sphere with the light blue. Color over the underpainting and the cast shadow. The objective is to get as many layers of color and wax as possible so they can be blended together in the final step. This is a layering and blending exercise.



Layer the other colors in the same way as the light blue in the following order.

- A. Light green – this will warm the sphere up a little.
- B. Blue – since there are not any more cool colors to add – layer on a second coat of blue.

Use light pressure around the highlight. Apply color with more pressure on the body tone and body shadow areas.

5. Both spheres: Apply the main color layer another time. As the wax builds up, more pressure might be needed to get color to apply well.

6. Complement body shadow: With all of the layers of color, the underpainting shadow might be hard to see so a complementary color can be used to bring the shadow back out. On the red sphere use green over the shadow area. On the blue sphere use orange over the shadow area.

\*\* Remember to apply color to the cast shadow.

7. Both spheres: Apply the main color layer another time.

8. Burnishing: This is applying heavy pressure which will move and blend the colors. Apply white colored pencil with heavy pressure. This will blend the layers together. If there are enough layers the heavy pressure will move the colors and blend them together. Burnishing can be done with any color, but a light color or no color is best as it will allow the other colors to shine through. Burnishing may be done more than once.

9. Reapply the main color using more pressure.

10. Reapply the violet or the complimentary color to bring out the body shadow if it has been lost or faded.

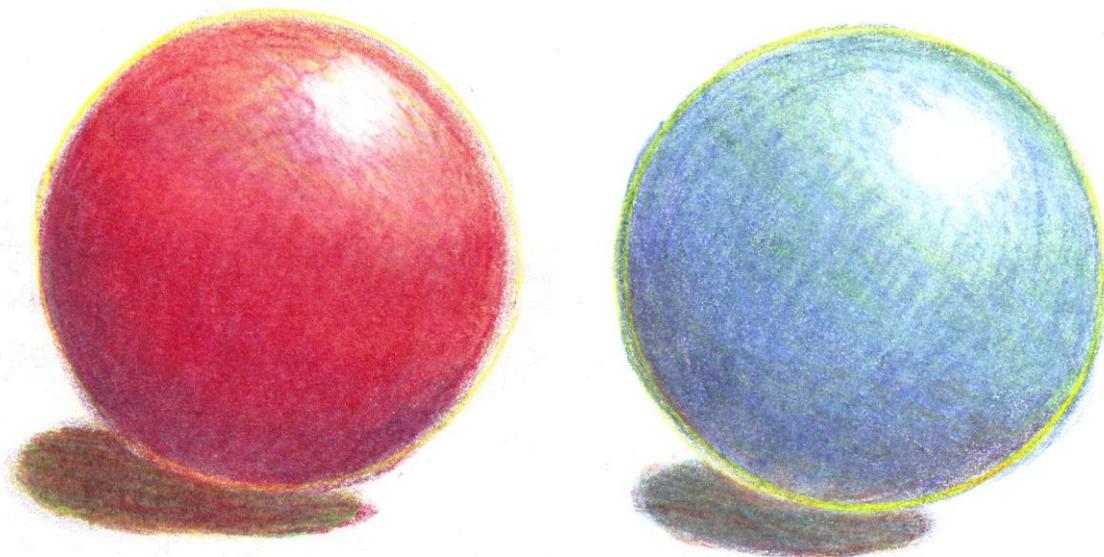
11. Burnish again using white.

By now there should not be little white spots of the paper showing through the color. If there is, repeat layering with the main color and burnish.

Cast shadows: The cast shadows are colored during the above process. When a color is applied on the sphere, it is also applied to the cast shadow.

Tip: Keep applying color layers and burnishing to create a smooth sphere. Take time and care with applications to get the best results. The underpainting can be done in the complimentary color.

Tip: Pencil strokes should follow the contour of the sphere.



These are in color – for best results – print this document in color.