

Media for Field Sketching

Graphite Pencil



The beauty of pencil is in its simplicity. You will get right to it, rather than having to plan ahead and use steps. Pencil can allow you to adjust the value scale easily with pressure. The down side of pencil is that it smears and that your darkest values will never be black, only dark gray.

Pen and Ink



Pen makes for a full range of values and allows for very dark shadows. It is simple to use and bold. Penwork also allows for a wide range of stroke technique to convey texture and shading. The challenge with a pen is that it does not erase and therefore you need confidence to make sure marks.

Colored Pencil



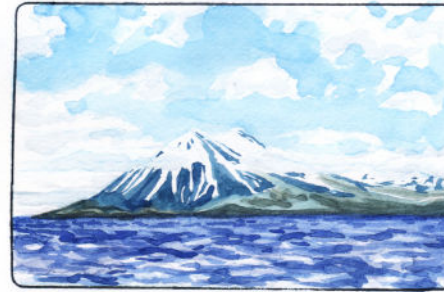
Color pencil can be built slowly with layers and blended, or used directly to show strokes such as hatching and cross-hatching. Colored pencils are forgiving to use because you can build slowly and carefully, but this also means that they can take more time.

Markers and brush markers are quick and bold. They offer a simplified palette and distinct value scale. Stroke history is usually revealed (for better or worse) and they are very unforgiving.

Marker



Watercolor



Watercolor is loose and expressive and offers vibrant colors. Colors can be easily mixed. There are many watercolor techniques that create a variety of effects so it is highly versatile. It is fast to apply, which can be both a benefit and a hazard. In order to build layers, drying time is required to avoid bleeding. Watercolor requires more materials and special paper and can be more costly than other supplies.

Mixed Media

Mixing media allows you to choose the best of all worlds. You can even create a diversity of media within a composition. In this example, only watercolor is used in the background to create an atmospheric effect, whereas the foreground uses pen, colored pencil and marker. Then only a pen is used on the botanical subject to emphasize form and texture.

