

# Ten Top Tips using Graphic Pencils

by Kathryn Barstow

- 1 Make a tonal swatch for each of the Graphic degrees on a strip of card for easy tonal comparison.
- 2 For quick and effective backgrounds use a craft knife to scrape graphite from the tip of the pencil and then rub into the paper with a paper stump.
- 3 One of the very hard graphic pencils (9H) can be used in a similar way to an indenting tool, particularly good for adding detail to the iris of an eye.
- 4 To even out the texture of a soft pencil (4B) shade over with a slightly harder pencil (HB).
- 5 To add interest to dark areas, you can add shapes into your drawing with a hard pencil (2H) then go over lightly with a softer lead (6B), the harder pencil will show through.
- 6 Use a paper stump to soften edges and smooth out shading.
- 7 Don't throw away stubs of paper stumps as these can be used for soft, fine shading.
- 8 To lift highlights or neaten edges use an eraser shield and battery eraser.
- 9 Use a Derwent eraser pencil and brush to gently brush debris off your paper/drawing.
- 10 Use small circular strokes to create texture in your shading.

