

# Ten Top Tips using Sketching Pencils

by Linda Stevens

- 1 Use the pencils on their side to create a softer coverage. The Sketching Pencils have a fatter core so are ideal for this.
- 2 Initially use your pencil lightly then press harder to create a light to dark tone.
- 3 Scrape pencil findings onto your paper using a sandpaper block. Rub over with your finger or paper stump to create a smoky effect.
- 4 You can also use a sandpaper block for shaping the tip of your pencil.
- 5 Try crosshatching; this builds up tone for shadows.
- 6 Lay a block of graphite down on the paper, scrape out a required design and then overlay with a darker pencil.
- 7 Make sure you keep a good long point on your pencil. The Derwent Superpoint Sharpener is ideal for this.
- 8 Touch the tip of the pencil lightly to paper and then drag it down so you produce thick and thin marks on your paper.
- 9 Try using your pencils on different paper surfaces for different results.
- 10 Using a battery eraser you can create the white of an eye by gently lifting the laid down pencil. Graphite is especially easy to remove if highlighting is required.

