

**Pine Cones, Acorns and Berries**

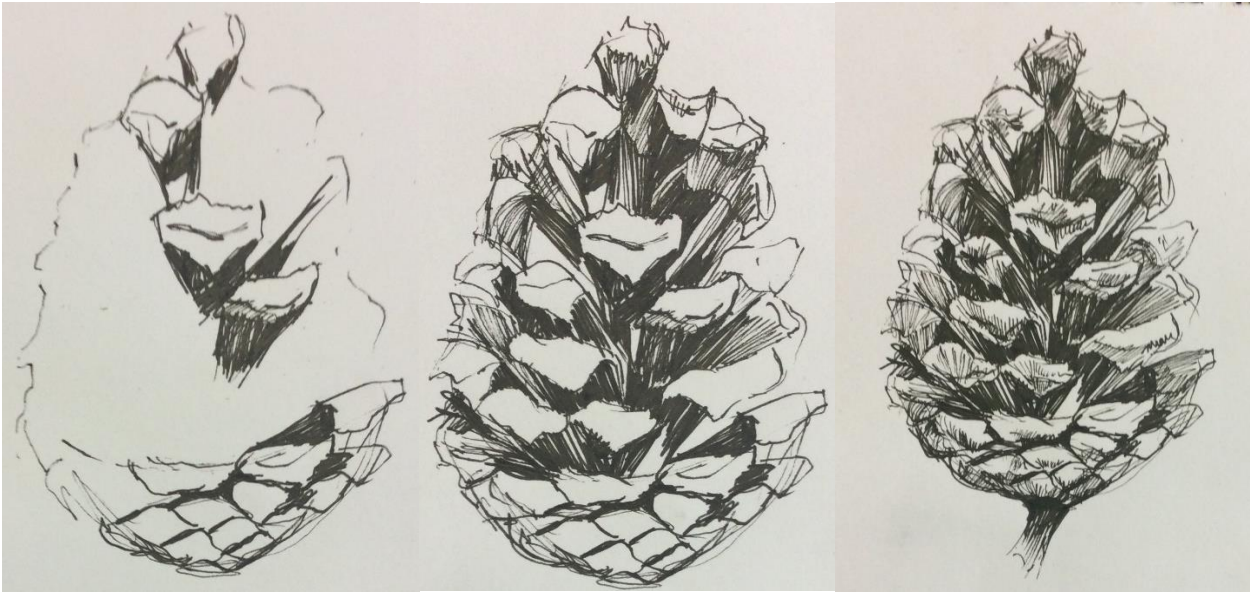
In this session we'll be looking at using coloured pencils (I used watercolour pencils dry) to produce an observational drawing of pine cones, acorns and berries. If you don't have coloured pencils, sketching pencils or even charcoal will work just as well. In the demonstration, I'll be showing you how I tackled all three objects but your composition can be of your own choosing, picking just one subject to focus on, rather than a selection.



*Above: copyrighted images*

## Warm Up

Seemingly simple objects can often be the trickiest to render, as your drawings will depend on how you represent its form using shading, contour lines and marks to represent texture. Before jumping straight in to a polished piece, try this simple warm up.



Begin by arming yourself with a black biro, fine liner or even Sharpie. The use of a pencil is banned in this part! Set a time limit – 10 minutes is good. Begin with a little pressure and sketch out the shape of your chosen object lightly without using a definite, heavy outline. Ensure that your eyes are looking at the image/object in front of you as much, if not more, than your paper. Vary the pressure you use to begin to add some of the detail – don't be afraid to go too dark. The beauty of using a black pen forces us not to be too precious with our work. Contour lines follow the shape of a form. Work in further detail considering the direction of your marks. Since a pine cone is rough and jagged, I'm using this type of mark to describe the object.



As there was a little time left on my clock, I decided to then sketch these acorns. Note how the marks/ contour lines have been changed to suggest this different form.

If you enjoy using black pen, continue to do so – some pleasing images can be created – just look at the examples on the mood board.

## Main Task



Begin by taping a sheet of paper to your board to create a border. I'm using watercolour paper as I'm going to tea stain the background – I soak the teabag in a little hot water and when it's cool enough to handle, I sweep the tea bag quickly over the surface of the paper. If you haven't got watercolour paper, you can miss out this stage. Once the paper is dry, use a 2H or HB pencil to plot out your chosen forms.

When working with pencil, I like to work with light pressure on the pencil first, building up to a harder pressure. I use a yellow, light brown and dark brown pencil to begin to plot in some of the shade on the pine cone. For the acorn I use yellow, light green and a mid brown. Always be conscious of the way you are placing down your marks as this can achieve much of the form for you. This is most important on more round and spherical shapes such as the acorn and berry. .



To create a sense of depth, gradually build up your layers of colours, considering marks to represent texture and the contour of the shape. Look between the image top left and top right to see how working in this way can transform the acorn. Note how it's important to consider leaving some of the first lighter layers alone to represent light hitting the objects.

Also note it is important not to add detail too soon. For the image on the right, I gave my pencils a good sharpen and started to add some of this detail nearer to the end.



Once I'd worked on the pine cone and the acorn, I thought that I needed a third object to finish off my drawing, so I decided to add this rosehip.

Look at how the colour is built up. I used the pencils on their side in a scumbling motion at the beginning to help me to get the roundness of the berry. As I progressed, I changed to using the tip of the pencil. Note how a harder pressure begins to burnish the previous layers and create a shine. I didn't have a dark enough red for some of the shadow on the berry so I used a purple pencil. An ultramarine blue would work as well.



Photographic References

