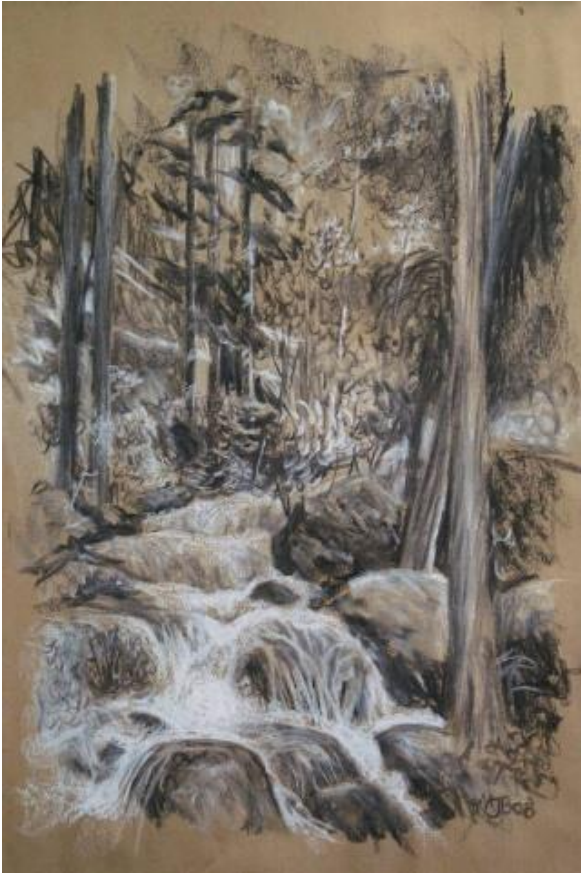


Mood Board Waterfalls



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Information about Charcoal for Beginners

Charcoal is a wonderfully versatile medium which allows us to work freely and expressively, or detailed and fine. Charcoal comes in a range of forms such as willow charcoal, compressed charcoal and charcoal pencils. Willow charcoal is the most easily to erase whereas compressed charcoal is more difficult as it produces a darker mark. Charcoal pencils are good for achieving finer detail.

Willow Charcoal: willow charcoal is made from the twigs of willow trees burned to a degree of precise hardness. It can be brittle and therefore prone to breaking. The brittleness can be frustrating for the beginner and since when using charcoal, tone is dependent on pressure, experiment with this. Not all willow sticks are alike- test on scrap paper before drawing on a final piece.

Putty Eraser: these are made of a pliable material and resembles white-tac or chewing gum. It can be used to remove charcoal by absorbing and picking up charcoal particles. They're very useful as they can be moulded into the exact shape needed to create a mark or remove a mistake.

Angled Eraser: an angled eraser can be made by slicing a corner from a plastic eraser with a craft knife. They remove more charcoal than a putty eraser and can give sharp, clean lines.

Sand Paper: good for sharpening willow charcoal to a point.

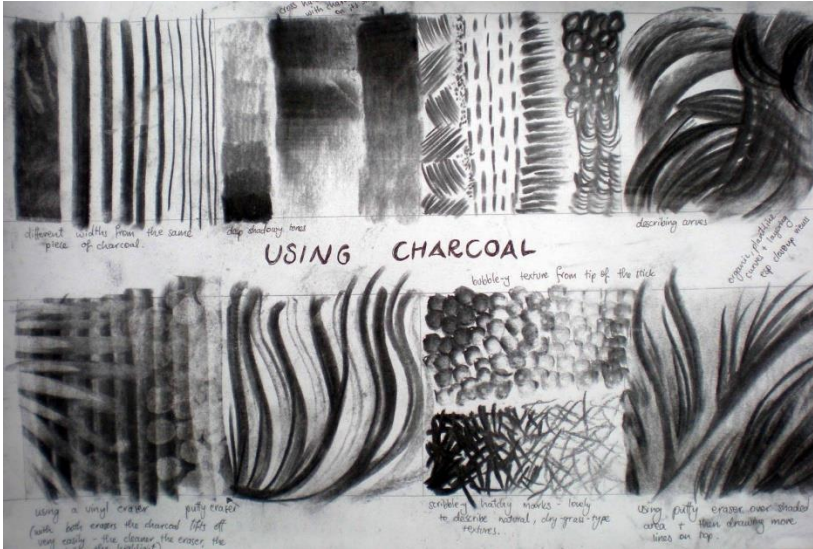
Blending stump/Paper stump: these go by both names. These are useful for blending and smudging.

Toned Paper; toned paper already gives you a coloured ground to start working on. It's great to use in tandem with white chalk.

Warm Up Exercise

Mark making is all important, do experiment with the lines and textures that can be created. Experiment with how you hold the charcoal as well as the pressure that you apply as all of this will achieve a greater range of effects.

1. Using the box beneath experiment with recreating these using the range of mediums you will be using for this project.



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L-R: white chalk is laid down L-R and willow charcoal R-L, note the tone that is created where the two meet; a dark layer of willow charcoal is drawn onto the paper and a putty eraser moulded into a point is used to carve out shapes; White chalk is laid down and then the side of a piece of willow charcoal is brushed over the top; willow charcoal is laid down onto paper and then a white charcoal pencil is used to create shapes.

2. Choose one of the images from the mood board and using the range of media and experiment with how different features of the landscape have been created.

Main Task

Choose one of the photographic references to create your own waterfall landscapes using charcoal and white medium, and a range of the techniques explored. Below is an example of the steps needed to create your landscape.



1. On toned paper using a HB or 2H pencil, plot out your composition lightly – look for those big shapes and don't be tempted to add too much detail. Use white chalk to begin to plot in the highlights, especially in the water – look at the direction the water is flowing and move your chalk in this way.
2. Using a piece of willow charcoal, begin to apply some of the bigger shapes and tones in the composition. Again don't be tempted to go for detail too soon and think of the different textures in the different parts of the landscape – always consider the direction in which things are growing or moving and apply the charcoal in this way. Use a range of sizes of willow charcoal to suit the marks that you need. Tip: to help with the illusion of perspective, marks and shapes will be larger in the foreground and become smaller the further that they recede into the background.
3. Begin to add some of detail such as adding tone into the water to hint at the way in which it is flowing. Use a paper stump to pull some of the darker tones out to create mid tones (you may find that you need to go back and darken up the very darkest tones).
4. Using a sharp, charcoal pencil, begin to add some details such as the tree branches, and use a white charcoal pencil or sharp edge of a piece of chalk to brighten up the highlights.



5. Keep working around the image, adjusting the tone and adding finer detail. Use an angled eraser or a putty eraser to pull out blades of grass.

Photographic References







