

# Color Basics

Color is an art element which is made up of three distinct properties:

**Hue-** refers to the name of a color and identifies its place on the color wheel.

**Intensity-** pertains to the quality of a color; its brightness or dullness.

**Value-** refers to the lightness or darkness of a color.

**Tint** – Adding white to a hue in order to lighten it.

**Shade-** Adding black to a hue in order to darken it.

**Complement** – Color directly opposite another color on the wheel. These two differing colors naturally work well together.

## Colored pencils

**Grades** – There are different grades of colored pencils. These have wax-like cores with pigment and other fillers. Multiple colors are often blended together into one core.

**Hard** colored pencils have a lead composition that does not crumble, can be sharpened to a fine point, and then used for very fine detail.

**Softer** pencil grades--those that give a thicker, more blended line--can be very useful for coloration of large areas of intense color. For blending tones, use overlapping layers of color, starting with the lightest color and adding the dark over it in even strokes.

Colored Pencils are **Semi-Opaque** (transparent) you can achieve different hues or blended tones by layering different colors.

You can only layer colored pencils to a point. Eventually the waxy buildup will become saturated and changes in color or texture are harder to achieve. When layer different colors, leave some of the paper tooth showing through or the new color will not "stick".