



compressed charcoal



HARD charcoal



MEDIUM charcoal



SOFT charcoal



DRAWING WITH CHARCOAL

Artists draw with charcoal when they want a very rich, dark value drawing.



MATERIALS

Charcoal comes in many forms. Vine is the long thin sticks. Compressed can be in the form of a pencil or a stick.

KNEADED ERASERS

are squishable gray erasers and can be shaped to get small areas



[Rich, intense blacks are blendable and adhere well to drawing surfaces]



VINE CHARCOAL

- made from sections of grape vine burnt to a precise degree of hardness.
- softer stick, harder to get crisp lines
- lighter & easier to erase
- good for light sketching

COMPRESSED CHARCOAL

- made of powdered charcoal held together with a binder
- harder than vine & better for finer detail drawing
- darker & harder to erase
- good for finer lines, textures, and details

TIPS & TRICKS

- Charcoal looks the best when you keep building up layers
- Artists often cover the whole paper with charcoal, then create their drawing by erasing & adding more on top
- To avoid smudging, work Left to right, turn your paper if necessary and use newsprint to cover parts you've already completed.
- Sometimes your fingers are the best blenders
- Charcoal is good for making various types of texture
- Charcoal pencils CAN be sharpened in a regular sharpener
- Drawing with Charcoal is all about values, try to make the darkest darks you can, and leave some areas completely white



FIXATIVE

When you are finished with a piece, spray it with fixative so it will not smudge!