

WHAT IS COLORED PENCIL... REVISITED

—Paula Parks, CPSA, Exhibition Director and Sarah Becktel, Product Research Director

Hopefully all of you read (*you did, didn't you?*) the article with the title above in the 2010 Spring/Summer issue of *To The Point*.

To refresh your memory, it talked about how easy it was to define a colored pencil in the early days of CPSA, but that it has become quite difficult now. Manufacturers are constantly showering us with new art products, some in the shape of a pencil and some not. The confusion caused by new products and creative naming has made it necessary for CPSA to decide just what should be acceptable as 100% colored pencil for our annual International Exhibition.

The Governing Board spent quite a while discussing this matter at its last two meetings and decided that, in order to maintain our stated purpose of promoting “the stature and awareness of colored pencil as a viable art form,” it must reconsider some products that, in the past, were treated as colored pencil. And since artists have been requesting a list of accepted products for years, it makes sense for CPSA to have a generic list of legal and illegal products and techniques available for reference.

Rather than evaluating each product individually, the Board came up with **FOUR BASIC CRITERIA** to help you determine whether a product is a true colored pencil:

- The product must be categorized as a “pencil” or a “colored pencil” by the manufacturer.
- The product must dry completely after application. (Oil pastels and similar products do not dry completely.)
- The product must not be easily brushed off the surface. (Pastels and similar products can be partially or completely brushed off.)
- The original form of the product (when purchased) must be a dry solid. (Ink, markers, and similar products are liquids.)

The Board then used these criteria to determine which products should be allowed in the two annual CPSA shows (see below: “Rule Changes to Apply in 2013”). Some products such as Neocolor (called “wax-based pastels” by the manufacturer) do not fit our new definition of colored pencil. We realize this may cause much gnashing of teeth, but hope you will understand the reasons for the changes.

RULE CHANGES TO APPLY IN 2013

Adopting a more limited definition of colored pencil (see above discussion: “What Is Colored Pencil? ... Revisited”) means that certain products no longer qualify as 100% cp for the CPSA International Exhibition. Such products, however, will be acceptable for Explore This! Exhibitions. The key thing to remember is that artwork for ET requires some element or technique *not allowed* for the International Exhibition. Please review the following lists and make sure you use the appropriate products for any art you create for CPSA shows in 2013 and beyond.