

# Ten Top Tips using Natural Graphite

by Debbie Adams

- 1 Use a sandpaper block to sharpen your graphite.
- 2 Use the edge of the Natural Graphite to draw as if it were a pencil, rotating it from one corner to the next as needed to keep a pointed edge.
- 3 Practice your shade/tone value in the form of a shade chart.
- 4 Gradual blending - a smooth application of tones from very dark to extremely light with a very gradual blend in between. It should be done very gradually so that you cannot see where one tone/shade ends and another begins.
- 5 To diffuse a sharp line or edge use a paper stump to soften.
- 6 To keep your surface clean, use a clean piece of paper to lay your drawing hand on. Avoid touching your paper with fingers as graphite will pick up the oily residue and your fingerprints will show on the artwork.
- 7 For areas that need highlighting use your kneadable eraser to lift out graphite.
- 8 Step away from your work to look at your drawing from time to time. The full perspective is often not seen when working.
- 9 When artwork is completed, clean around your drawing with a kneadable eraser.
- 10 Practice often and get used to your tools.

