

Ten Top Tips using Pastel Pencils

by Carole Massey

- 1** Use the side of the pencil for broader areas of colour and the tip for drawing and detailed work.
- 2** To blend pastels you can use a paper stump, a rubber shaper or your finger.
- 3** Blend several similar colours together to enhance or heighten a colour e.g. two or three blues or greens.
- 4** Apply diagonal lines (hatching and cross hatching) of pure colour without blending, this also helps prevent colours becoming 'muddy'.
- 5** Always work with sharp pencils. Use a pastel pencil sharpener or sharpening stand and craft knife to sharpen and a sandpaper block to hone the tip to a fine point.
- 6** Hatch large areas with one colour to create an overall harmony or to bring several areas together.
- 7** Create interest by varying the marks you make. Use both smooth blended areas as well as directional hatching marks.
- 8** Follow the maxim 'light against dark, dark against light' to increase tonal contrast and bring life to your drawings.
- 9** Dab with a kneadable eraser to remove excess pastel or shape it to a point to lift out highlights.
- 10** White is more effective used directly on the paper, not over other layers of pastel.

