

Erin Raedeke
Atmospheric Drawing with Powdered Graphite
March 3-31st

Powdered Graphite is a great and very versatile medium. It can be very much like charcoal in terms of it can allow you to tone the paper and then “draw” subtractively. However, I feel like it is less harsh and the variety of tones and marks one is able to achieve is even greater and more sensitive than with using charcoal (this could also just be my preference and that I feel much more comfortable with this medium). There is the added quality of being able to add denatured alcohol to the powdered graphite which forms a type of very rich, dark “ink” that can then be painted on.

Here is the supply list, but I want to mention a few things. In the past I have used Denatured Alcohol with the powdered graphite to create a rich black-like ink. However, I realize that Denatured Alcohol does create some fumes, which means ventilation needs to be considered. I have just ordered some regular rubbing alcohol, so if you don’t mind waiting, I will update you with how it works with the powdered graphite - hopefully by the end of this month (January). Many of the items below you might already have. Although, I would make sure that the chamois cloth that you use hasn’t been used for charcoal. I’ve included a few links to some of the items, but of course you don’t have to buy them from that specific store.

Supply List

Powdered Graphite <https://www.plazaart.com/cretacolor-graphite-powder-150g>

Chamois cloth

Blending sticks

Gum eraser

Plastic eraser

Brushes (these don’t have to be nice, new ones. Any watercolor/ink brush will work - a large and small round would be ideal).

Plastic palette, something like this: <https://www.plazaart.com/10-well-round-plastic-palette> Variety of graphite pencils

Mechanical eraser/an eraser that you can “sharpen,” get a fine point

A straight edge (ruler, etc)

Drawing board



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*Paper - I like using a printmaking paper like "Stonehenge." It comes in 22" x 30" sheets that I usually cut down. <https://www.plazaart.com/stonehenge-paper-sheet-white-22x30>

*I am also in the process of experimenting with a variety of papers, so I will also update you on that as well.

One more helpful link:

https://assets.ctfassets.net/f1fikihmjtrp/XMnNrwY6XHvdT41kUHPJs/4df81be6f37be4058bc3492f5a6c263c/SC_graphite_wash.pdf