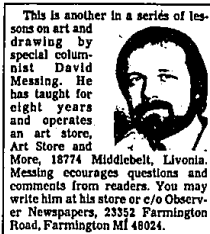


There's more to felt tips than meets the eye



By David P. Messing
special writer

Last week I mentioned that we would cover more uses and techniques with felt tip pens. There are markers for all ages and all manner of needs. You say the smell of markers makes you sick? How about a set of markers that makes you hungry?

Mr. Sketch makes an assortment of watercolor markers that is scented in food aromas. Black is licorice, brown is cinnamon, blue is blueberry, orange smells like tangerines and, of course, red is cherry.

The colors and the smells go on and on. Watercolor markers are best suited

for children but adults enjoy sniffing these markers as much as the kids do.

I can tell because when they approach the counter to make a purchase, there are little-toe multicolored dots on their nose and upper lip. But aside from being low in calories, they are mostly just for fun.

Speaking of fun, have you ever seen Color Tix by Marvy? This set of markers still amazes me.

About six colors come in the set and two clear color changers. You can, for example, stroke on a paper the blue; then when you cross over the blue with the color changer, it will turn a bright yellow. Every color changes to a new bright color.

These sets are under \$3 and come in "wide" and "fine" tip assortments. After studying how they work, I am convinced that they are magic.

NOW MARVY also makes a watercolor marker that does have some commercial and artistic merits. These markers are fine tipped and range in color assortments from 6 to 60.

One of my customers at the Art Store put me onto their best application. Chris uses them for stippie renderings. Stippie, or pointalism, is merely lots and lots of dots.

Chris does all his renderings on strathmore and Aquarius paper, which is a smooth, non-buckling watercolor paper. They must be beautiful because he stays busy doing only commis-

Artifacts

sioned drawings.

Be careful, even though both watercolor and permanent markers tend to fade (or are fugitive), watercolors seem to fade the fastest, especially in direct sunlight.

My whole life I wanted a white marker. I thought that would be neat if markers came in opaque, meaning "non-transparent."

Well... they put a man on the moon, inflated cars till they cost as much as a house and made a marker that issues oil base paint. The paint marker nibs are not felt — as a matter of fact I don't know what they are. But I know they work.

Paint markers are available in about 24 colors. They mark on anything and they are truly opaque. Most people are familiar with the gold and silver which ranges from a wide nib to a fine nib (.03), which is about the same line as a ballpoint pen.

Imagine the trouble I could of gotten into with an oil base permanent opaque marker when I was just a kid.

It used to be that necessity was the mother of invention. But now money breeds invention at a higher rate than

necessity. So it is with the marker market.

I was once given, at a buyers show, a ceramic tip, fine point marker with a retail cost of \$17.95. That might impress someone if you left the price tag on.

My point is that every 10 days there is a new marker on the market. But as far as retail goes, it is not the marker that is in the hand but the hand that holds the marker.

One of my favorite lessons involves a felt tip pen on colored mat board. First do your drawing on white paper. Once you have perfected your drawing, transfer it to a piece of mat board, preferably a dark or rich colored board.

Use a graphite stick to coat the back of your original. When you center your original drawing on the mat board, it is necessary to tape it to the mat board. But before you tape the original, be sure to make the tape less tacky or it will tear the soft paper which is on mat board.

To do this simply peel off several pieces of the tape and place them on your pants or shirt. When you peel the tape off, it will be covered with lint, which reduces the tack of your tape. Now you have a corrected and perfected drawing transferred to a piece of colored mat board.

ENK IN your pencil lines, then lightly erase any pencil lines with a kneaded eraser. Carefully add the base colors with felt tip pen. I say carefully because the paper on mat board is soft and the felt tip permanent ink bleeds readily.

Usually if you stay about one-sixteenth of an inch from your ink outline, the color will bleed to the line. Remember this ink is transparent and will allow the color of the mat board to show through.

For example, if your mat board is a plum color and you add a light color marker thinking you will lighten the area, you will be disappointed to see an even darker plum color result. So whenever you wish to darken a mat board color use markers.

When you wish to lighten the color, use colored pencils. Remember too, highlight and shade every base color with colored pencils.

Another pleasing application is to draw on a canvas board. Then ink in your line with pen and ink. Don't worry if the weave of canvas disturbs your lines. Erase the pencil lines and flood in your base colors with markers.

The gesso coated canvas board does not allow the ink of the marker to sink into the canvas, so spray your picture with fixative and watch as the colors flow and run together. The pen and ink lines will remain unaltered.

If you do not wish to have this field

look, simply spray a few light coats of fixative or varnish. Even though the inks are permanent on the canvas, it is good to fix or varnish the finished work to help it to be fade-resistant.

Certain tracing papers have a very hard surface and marker colors never really soak in. The colors are merely laid on top of the paper.

This affords the ability to correct or remove a color. If, for example, you colored in a very dark color and wish to remove it, you simply go over the area with a very light colored marker.

If you are using albanese tracing paper by K & E, you can completely remove any color by simply rubbing over the area with a lighter color marker. Here, especially, if you want a wash look, simply spray a good amount of workable fixative and control the flow of colors by tipping the paper in the direction you would like it to flow.

Then you can add more color and spray as often as you like. Also do not forget to use colored pencils as needed.

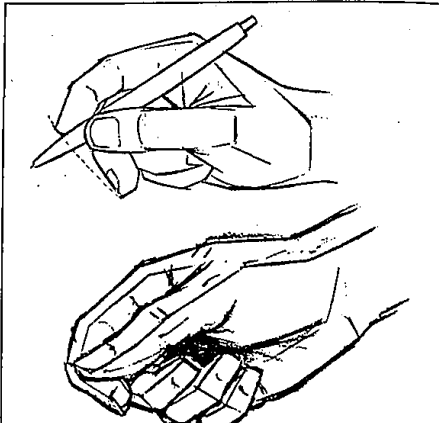
I AM WRITING this article on Friday so by Monday there will probably

be a new line of felt tip pens on the market somewhere. It is important that you know about them and I will try to keep you informed, but it is not important that you own the latest and newest materials.

Many times new items are much like another product already on the market. For example, there is the Fine Point System. I like them and I use them all the time.

They range in nib size from .06 to .03. The fine tip of the .03 is mounted on a long steel sleeve and it looks more like a hyperdermic needle than a pen. Very impressive, however, despite the looks, the Fine Point System .03 at a cost of \$1.39 draws a line no thinner than the "tried and true" Pilot Razor point, which is only 90 cents.

That is why it is important to buy your materials at a store where the people know what they are selling. Many times an informed salesperson will save you a good amount of money. Especially if you simply tell them what you intend to do with what you wish to purchase.



Q: Do you have any tips on drawing hands?

A: Many times, artists draw beautiful drawings of people but when it comes to the hands, it looks like a clump of bananas

hanging out of the sleeves. It is best to draw the hands in planes that are jointed and tapering towards the fingertips.

Also the length of each segment of the fingers decrease by one-third towards the finger tip.

exhibitions

● **GALLERY 22**
New paintings and graphics by 20 local and internationally known artists including James Colnagard, Max Pappart, Nanci Closson, Marilyn Derwaskus, Irene Simon, Charles Gile and Denny Foy. Continues through Oct. 12. Hours are Monday-Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday, until 9 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., 22 E. Long Lake, Bloomfield Hills.

● **GALLERY BIRMINGHAM**
Friday, Sept. 23 — Photographic works by Jerry Stanecki will be on display through Oct. 15. Photography has long been a part of the life of this well-known newscaster. This is his first area show. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Saturday, 251 E. Merrill, Birmingham.

● **TROY ART GALLERY**
Saturday, Sept. 24 — Handwoven works by Sandi Lummien and clay share an interest in casting their own

through Oct. 22. At the 1-5 p.m. opening Saturday, Lummien will give a 2 p.m. talk on "Humanizing Space." Hours are 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 755 W. Big Beaver, Troy.

● **CANTOR/LEMBERG GALLERY**
Saturday, Sept. 24 — Paintings and drawings by Sylvia Birch Halperin continue through Oct. 15. Reception to meet the artist 3-5 p.m. Saturday. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 538 N. Woodward, Birmingham.

● **SIXTH STREET GALLERY**
Saturday, Sept. 24 — Sculpture and drawings by the members of the Kalamazoo Bronzecastling Company are on display through Oct. 29. The 10 members come from diverse backgrounds. The company was formed from bronzecasting workshops at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts. They continue to share an interest in casting their own

works. Jo Regan from Birmingham commutes so she can cast her own pieces. Others are William Tye, Jack Glover, Patricia S. Daggett, Frank Newman, Maria Chicco, Joseph Wyss, Karin Kirulla, Karla Wyss-Tye and Helen Dahlberg. Opening reception is 5-8 p.m. Saturday. Regular hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 214 Sixth St. Royal Oak.

● **CRANBROOK ACADEMY OF ART MUSEUM**
Tuesday, Sept. 27 — "Ojibwa," an exhibition of North American Indian artifacts will continue on display through October. The 50 objects are from the Cranbrook Institute of Science's 4,000 piece American Indian collection. Included are textiles, blankets, rugs, baskets, pots, marks, dolls, costumes and bead work. There will be photographs by Edward Curtis. Museum hours are 1-5 p.m. daily except Monday and major holidays. 500 Lone Pine, Bloomfield Hills. Admission charge.



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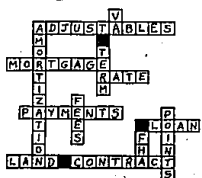
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