

Draw this Gargoyle in hard charcoal in 5 easy stages



STAGE 1



Begin your drawing by outlining your subject in hard charcoal pencil on to smooth paper...

STAGE 2



Lightly shade and hatch the entire drawing, strengthening the linework as you go.

STAGE 3



Now let's build up the density across the whole drawing with the same hard charcoal pencil.

STAGE 4



Keep the dark tones coming for added contrast and definition.

STAGE 5



A few final details and touches and your gargoyle is complete.

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Draw this Gargoyle in medium charcoal in 5 easy stages



STAGE 1



Begin your drawing by outlining your subject in medium charcoal pencil on to smooth paper...

STAGE 2



Lightly shade and hatch the entire drawing, strengthening the linework as you go.

STAGE 3



Now let's build up the density across the whole drawing with the same medium charcoal pencil.

STAGE 4



Keep the dark tones coming for added contrast and definition.

STAGE 5



A few final details and touches and your gargoyle is complete.

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Draw this Gargoyle in soft charcoal in 5 easy stages



STAGE 1



Begin your drawing by outlining your subject in soft charcoal pencil on to smooth paper...

STAGE 2



Lightly shade and hatch the entire drawing, strengthening the linework as you go.

STAGE 3



Now let's build up the density across the whole drawing with the same soft charcoal pencil.

STAGE 4



Keep the dark tones coming for added contrast and definition.

STAGE 5



A few final details and touches and your gargoyle is complete.

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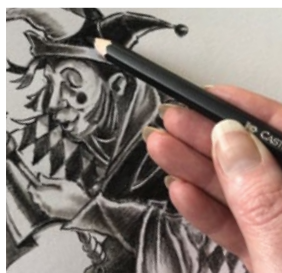
Holding your Charcoal



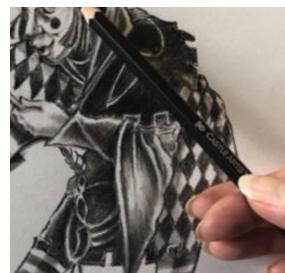
Charcoal Pencils



Position your hand closer to the end of the pencil for more control but heavier strokes.



Gripping further up the pencil gives less control but lighter strokes.

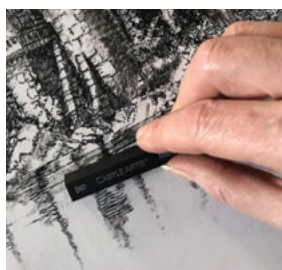


Holding like a brush can give you a more flexible 'painterly' technique.

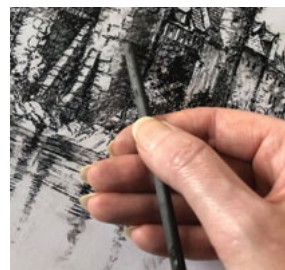
Charcoal Sticks and Willow Sticks



Grip the stick about 25mm (1") from the end for more control.

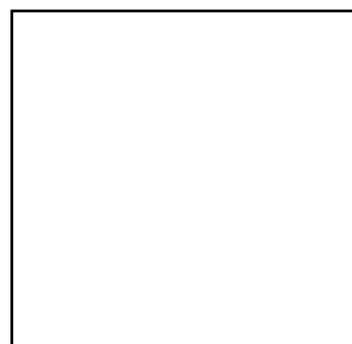
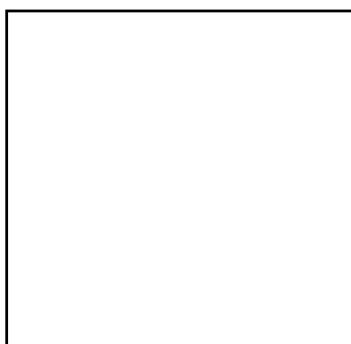
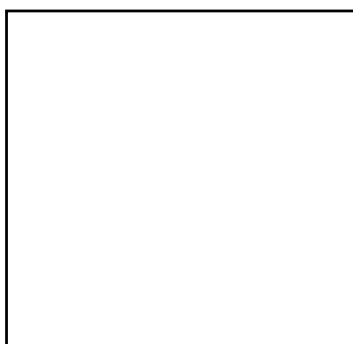
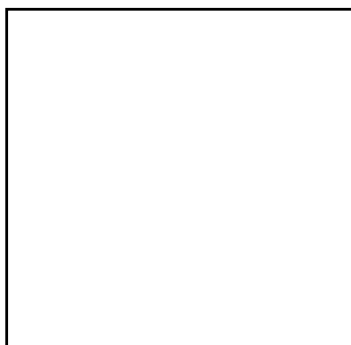
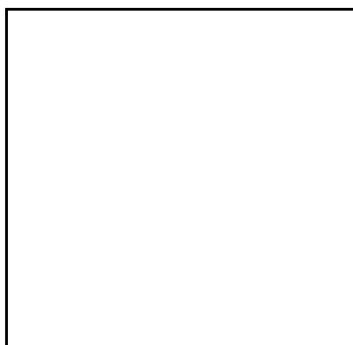


Holding away from the tip gives more freedom of movement but less control in detailed areas.



Holding the willow stick at about 25mm (1") is ideal for gently adding finishing touches.

Try it yourself

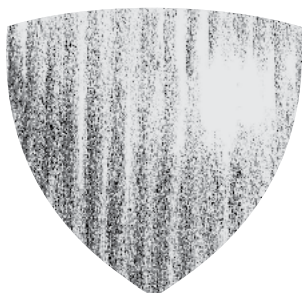


Shading with Charcoal

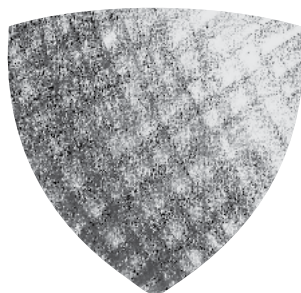


Making your mark, and blending

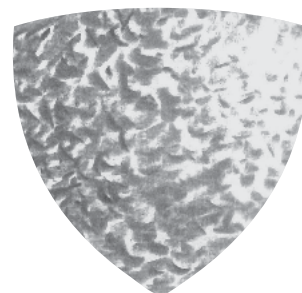
Use varied lines with subtle shifts in width and darkness for a more interesting sketch. Control takes some practice, but experimenting with grades and holding the pencil at different angles will allow you to create a variety of marks.



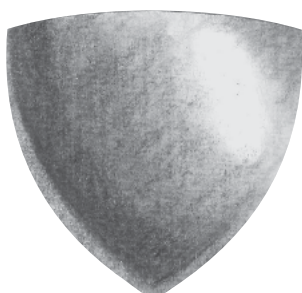
Hatching:
Medium Pencil



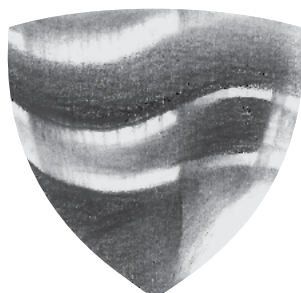
Cross Hatching:
Medium Pencil, Soft Stick



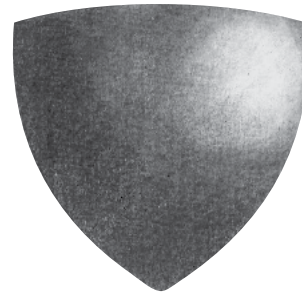
Stippling:
Willow Stick



Kneadable Eraser
removal technique:
Soft Charcoal Stick

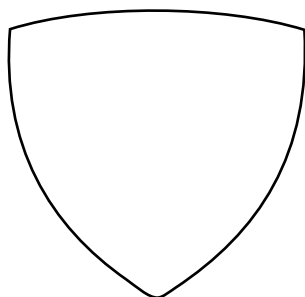


Twin-tipped Blender:
Medium Pencil,
Willow Stick

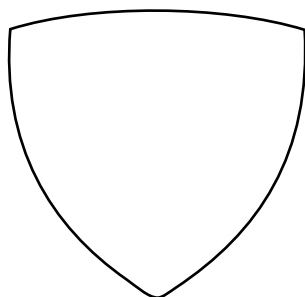


Paper Blender:
Soft Pencil

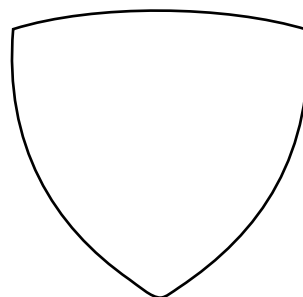
Try it yourself



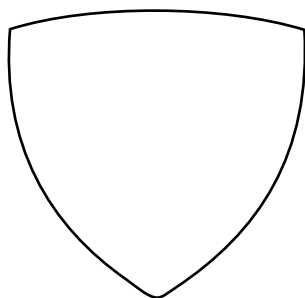
Hatching:
Medium Pencil



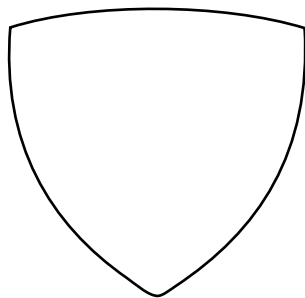
Cross Hatching:
Medium Pencil, Soft Stick



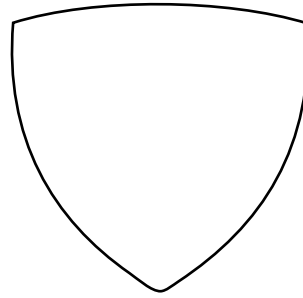
Stippling:
Willow Stick



Kneadable Eraser
removal technique:
Soft Charcoal Stick



Twin-tipped Blender:
Medium Pencil,
Willow Stick



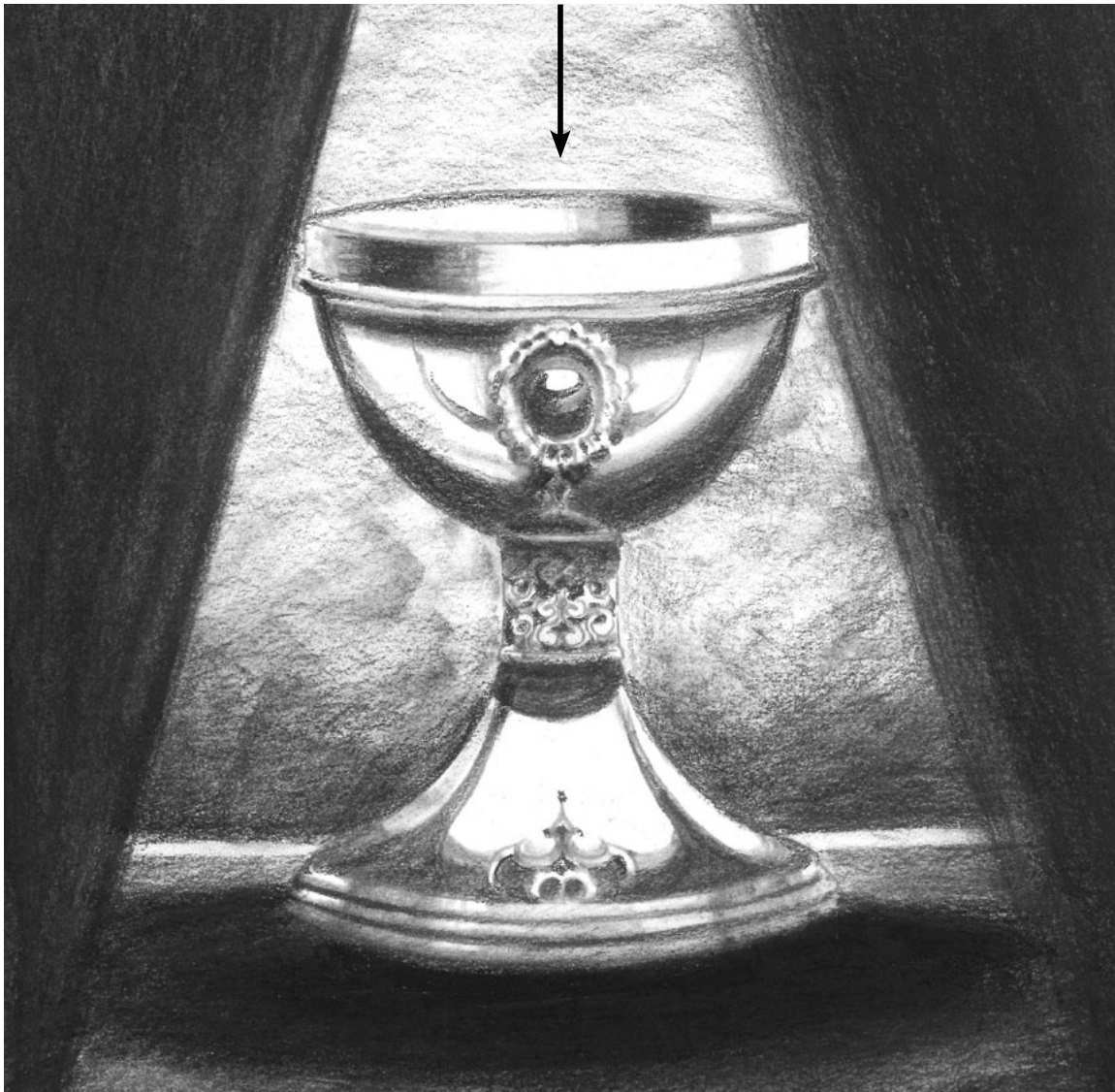
Paper Blender:
Soft Pencil

Understanding values of light with this top lit charcoal Goblet

Any image is composed of values, this simply means the range from white to black on a scale of one to ten. Therefore one is the white of the paper and ten is the blackest charcoal.

To get to grips with this, try working from the lightest values to the darkest.

Why not try covering your smooth paper with solid charcoal and remove the tones and creating highlights using a kneadable eraser and blenders.



Understanding values of light with this top lit charcoal Goblet



STAGE 1

Begin the drawing by outlining your subject, then mask off around the edges using masking tape.

Using a ruler and charcoal pencil, draw lines to describe the direction of the light from the light source, and a line of 'horizon'.



STAGE 2

Now from lightly shading and hatching the goblet centrepiece with charcoal pencil, gradually build up density and form. Smooth your drawing by using the paper blender after every stage.



STAGE 3

With the side edge of a charcoal stick, start adding the background areas of shadow, following the 'direction of light' lines you drew earlier – intensify these areas with a charcoal pencil.



STAGE 4

Add further charcoal pencil dark tones to the goblet and begin the foreground area. Deepen the foreground with texture from a charcoal stick. With a paper blender, smooth out the black background shadows and foreground.



STAGE 5

Now smooth out the paler background area and continue blending the goblet itself. Then with a touch of charcoal pencil and a bit of blending, your goblet is complete – carefully peel off the masking tape to reveal the finished drawing.



Share your version of the top lit Goblet charcoal drawing on Facebook or Instagram #castlearts

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Top lit



The charcoal media used
to create this drawing:

Charcoal Pencils,
all three grades

Charcoal Sticks,
soft and medium

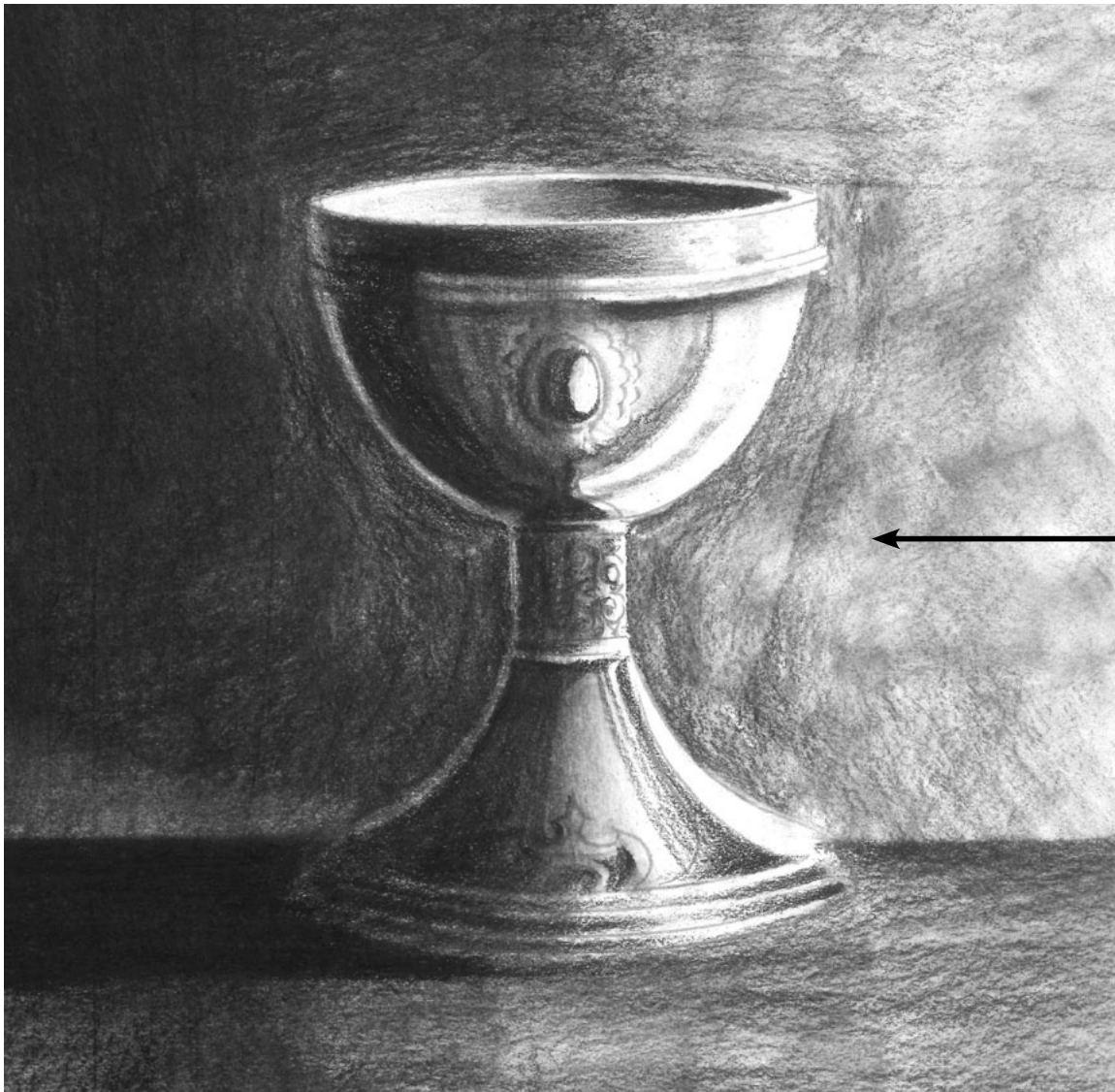
Willow Sticks

Understanding values of light with this side lit charcoal Goblet

Any image is composed of values, this simply means the range from white to black on a scale of one to ten. Therefore one is the white of the paper and ten is the blackest charcoal.

To get to grips with this, try working from the lightest values to the darkest.

Why not try covering your smooth paper with solid charcoal and remove the tones and creating highlights using a kneadable eraser and blenders.



Understanding values of light with this side lit charcoal Goblet



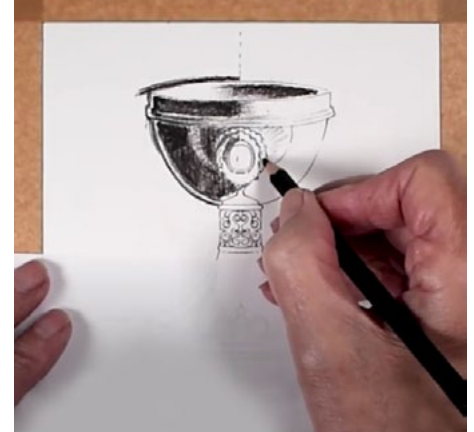
STAGE 1

Begin the drawing by outlining your subject, and 'horizon' line, then mask off around the edges using masking tape. With charcoal pencil, build up gradually the density and form of the goblet.



STAGE 2

Next we add tone to the background using charcoal pencil against a paper mask along the 'horizon line'. Add dark charcoal pencil tones to the foreground area, and a few touches to the left side of the goblet itself.



STAGE 3

Add dark charcoal pencil tones to the foreground, and to the left of the goblet. Intensify the shadow with pencil and stick. Smooth out these black tones with kneadable eraser and paper blender. See the contrast between left and right halves of the drawing.



STAGE 4

With the paper blender, smooth the mid tones, with more emphasis on the right areas of the drawing. Now returning to the charcoal pencil add some fine details and some subtle shadows to the goblet.



STAGE 5

Then with a touch of charcoal pencil here, a bit of blending and eraser there, your goblet is complete, ready to carefully peel off the masking tape to reveal the finished drawing.



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Side lit



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The charcoal media used
to create this drawing:

Charcoal Pencils,
all three grades

Charcoal Sticks,
soft grade

Willow Sticks

Understanding values of light with this three-quarter lit charcoal Goblet

Any image is composed of values, this simply means the range from white to black on a scale of one to ten. Therefore one is the white of the paper and ten is the blackest charcoal.

To get to grips with this, try working from the lightest values to the darkest.

Why not try covering your smooth paper with solid charcoal and remove the tones and creating highlights using a kneadable eraser and blenders.

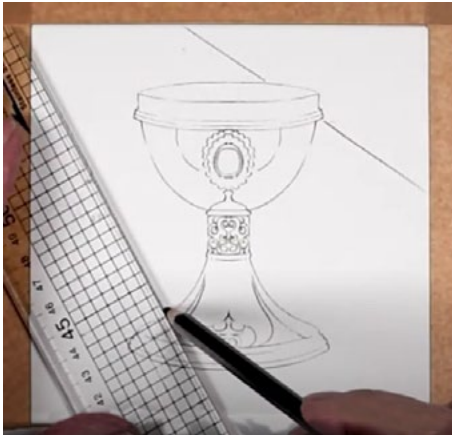


Understanding values of light with this three-quarter lit charcoal Goblet



STAGE 1

Begin outlining with a medium charcoal pencil onto a smooth paper, mask the edges using masking tape. Using a ruler and medium charcoal pencil, draw lines to describe the direction of the light from the top left light source, and add a line of 'horizon', plus secondary guidelines for later gradating.



STAGE 2

Lightly shade and hatch the goblet with a soft charcoal pencil, build up density and form with the emphasis on the right side, the opposite side to the light source. With the side edge of a charcoal stick, add background shadow following the 'direction of light' lines you drew earlier – intensify with a charcoal pencil using a sheet of paper to mask your drawing.



STAGE 3

Now we shade the secondary light source. Add texture and shadows with the soft compressed charcoal stick. Add tone to the foreground using charcoal pencil dark tones to the goblet and begin the foreground area. Deepen with texture from a charcoal stick, gradating the light source as you go.



STAGE 4

With the large paper blender, smooth out both background and foreground, observing the 'direction of light'. Add mid tone to light areas and blend shadows, merging with the base of the goblet. Continue to blend and intensify the shade and shadows on the right side, the furthest areas away from the light source.



STAGE 5

Then with a touch of charcoal pencil here, a bit of blending and erasing there, your three-quarter lit goblet drawing is almost complete. Now carefully peel off the masking tape to reveal the finished drawing.



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Three-quarter lit



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The charcoal media used
to create this drawing:

Charcoal Pencils,
soft and medium

Charcoal Sticks,
soft grade

Willow Sticks

Drawing lines with Charcoal



Exploring line thicknesses

Alternating thick and thin lines in your drawing can make it so much livelier. In a charcoal drawing, if every line has the same width or is drawn using the same pressure, it ends up looking like a coloring book drawing and can come across as one-dimensional and less engaging.



Charcoal Pencil



Charcoal Stick



Willow Stick

Try it yourself

Charcoal Pencil _____



Charcoal Stick _____



Willow Stick _____



Draw this ancient Castle in 5 easy stages



STAGE 1



Begin your drawing by outlining your subject in charcoal pencil on to smooth paper...

STAGE 2



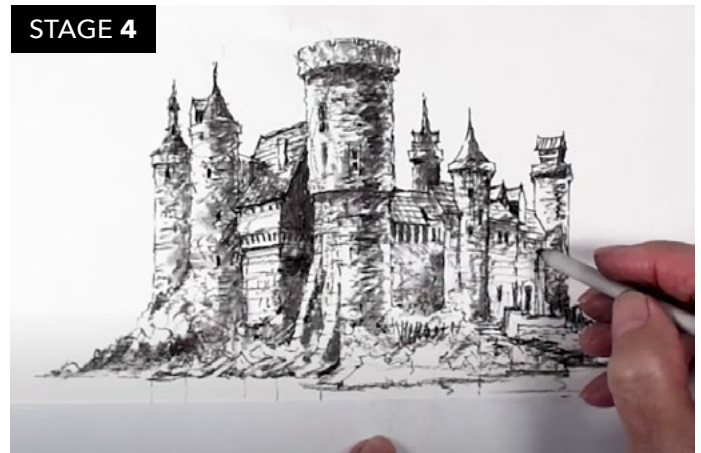
Start to create form by shading and hatching your drawing in willow stick...

STAGE 3



Build up a layer of density using the end edge of a charcoal stick...

STAGE 4



Create pleasing tonal values and darken the shadows with a paper blender...

STAGE 5

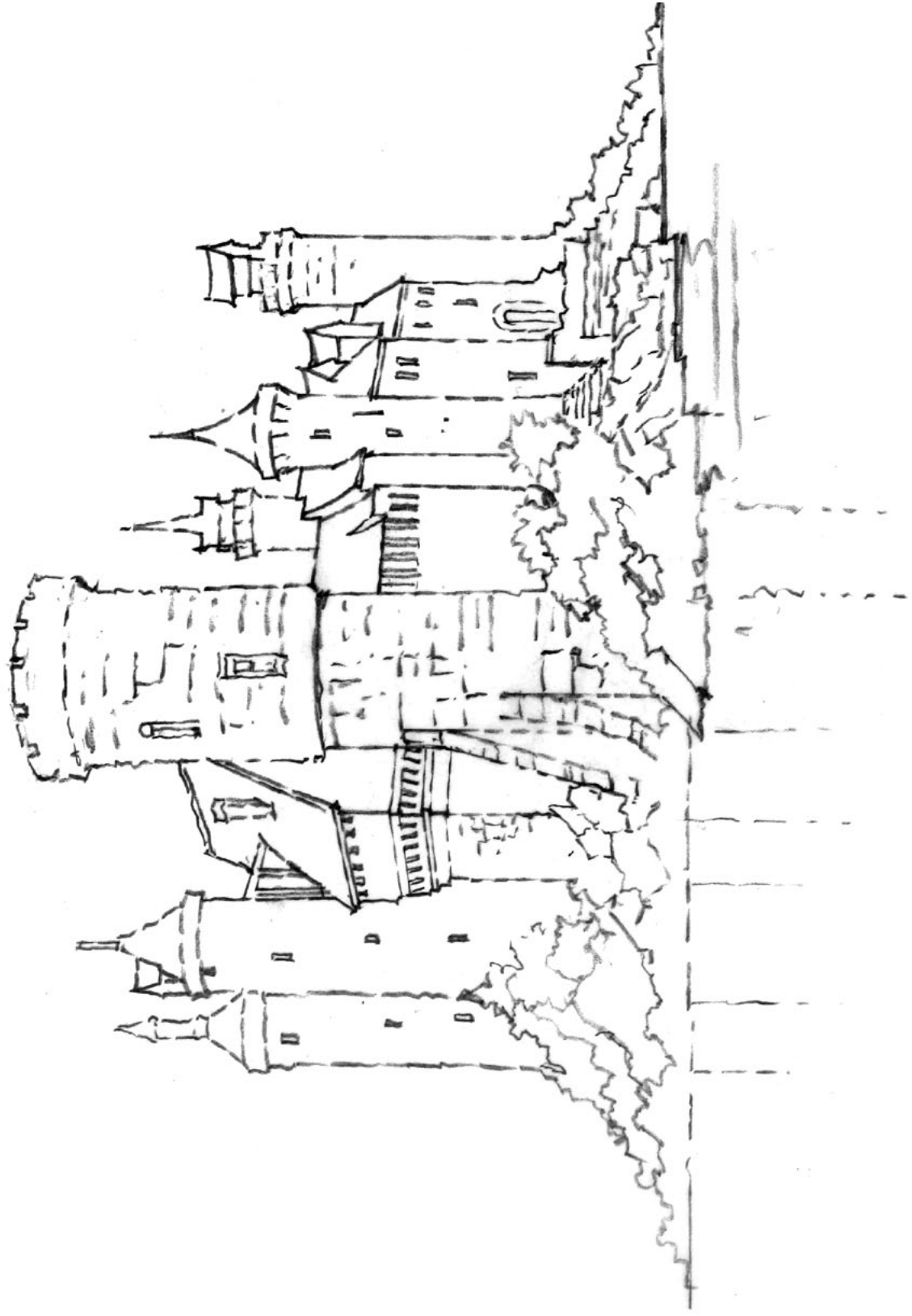


A final touch up with kneadable eraser and charcoal pencil and you're done!

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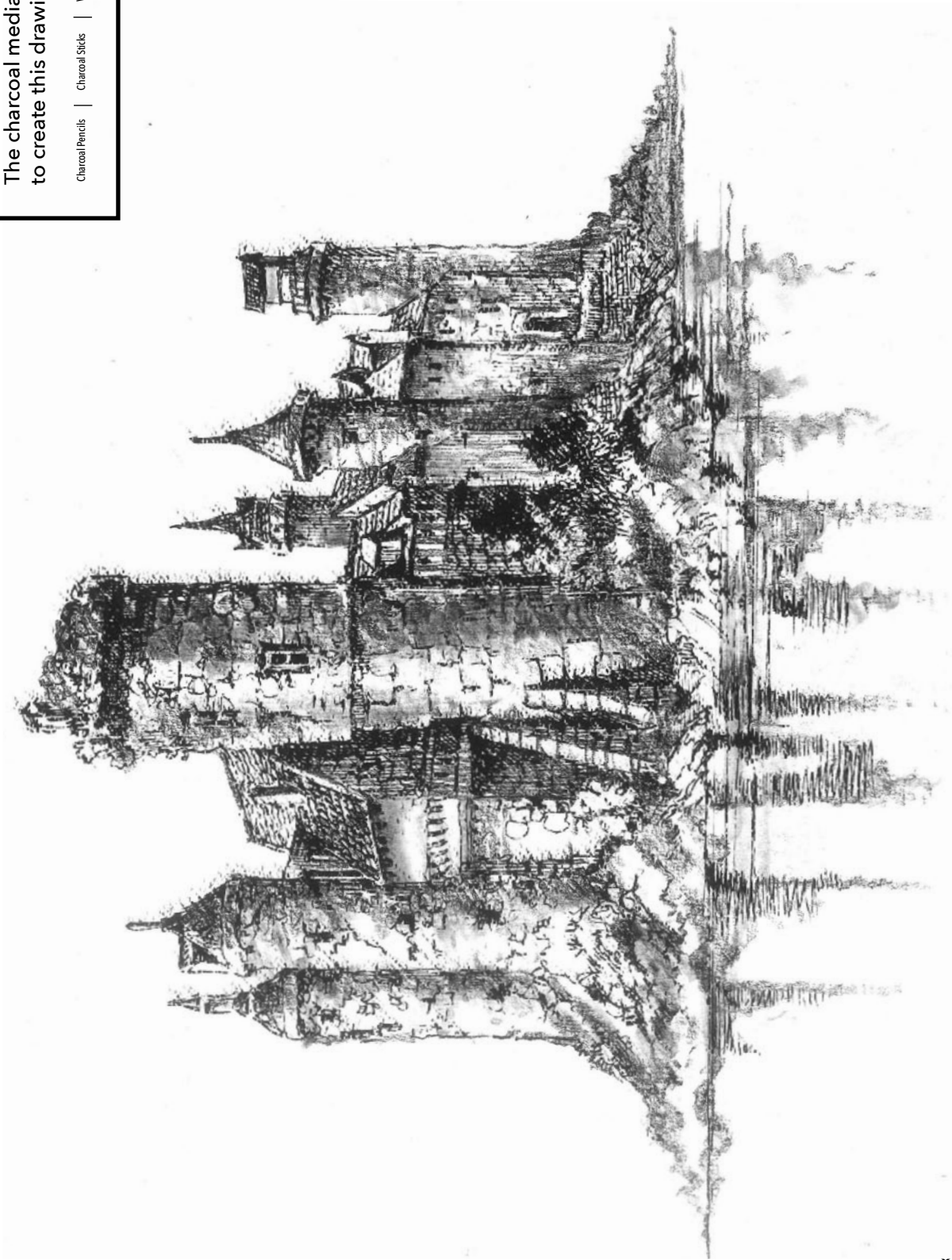
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The charcoal media used
to create this drawing:

Charcoal Pencils | Charcoal Sticks | Willow Sticks



Draw this jocular Jester in 5 easy stages



STAGE 1

Begin your drawing by outlining your subject in black on to smooth paper...



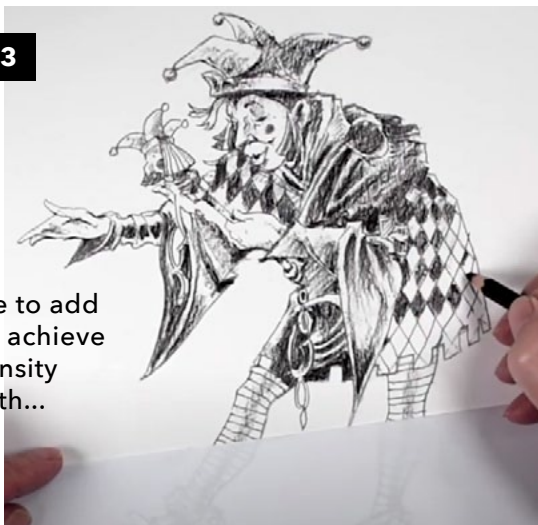
STAGE 2

Start to build up tone with a layer or two of charcoal tones...



STAGE 3

Continue to add layers to achieve more density and depth...



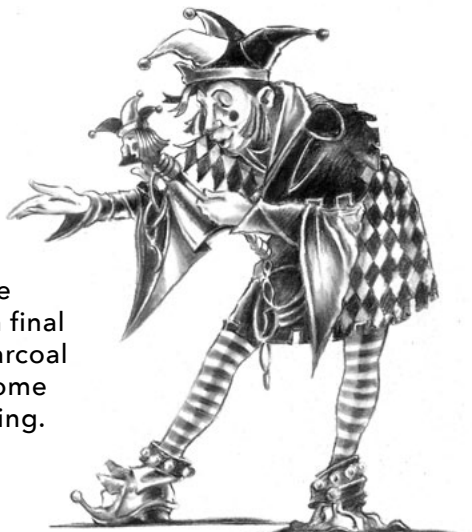
STAGE 4

Now use a paper blender to intensify your drawing...



STAGE 5

Complete the drawing with final details in charcoal pencil and some subtle blending.



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The charcoal media used
to create this drawing:

Charcoal Pencils | Charcoal Sticks | Willow Sticks