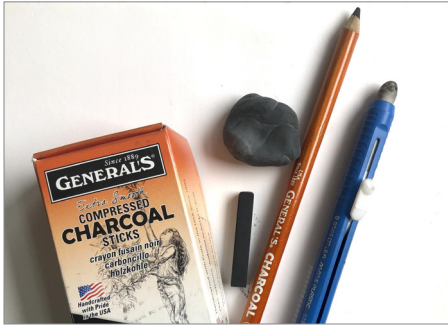
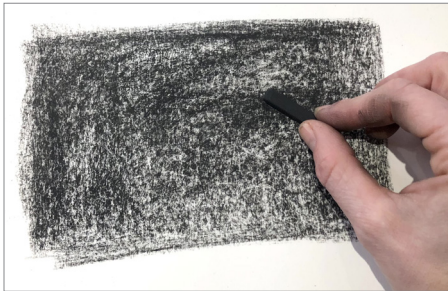


Drawing the Collection Lesson 11 – Charcoal Reduction

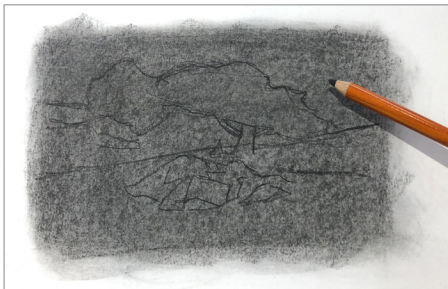
Charcoal is a versatile drawing medium that allows the artist to approach texture, shading and value differently than that of a graphite pencil. When doing a reductive charcoal drawing, it is possible to capture a wide range of value with relative ease. Follow along with the example referencing a piece from the Museum's permanent collection, Henry Wolf's *Rocky Field*.



Above are the supplies used in this exercise: compressed charcoal stick, charcoal pencil, kneaded eraser, vinyl retractable eraser.



The first step to a reductive drawing is to darken the area with a layer of charcoal. Using a rag, paper towel or your fingers, smudge the charcoal to get a smooth even value.



Next, loosely sketch the line drawing with the charcoal pencil. If you make a mistake, you can easily smudge the line into the background.



Henry Wolf | ROCKY FIELD | engraving on paper | 1870



For the lighter values in the drawing, use the putty-like kneaded eraser to lift the charcoal by pressing onto the paper. Using the eraser as a drawing implement allows for interesting mark-making and precision, as it can be molded into different shapes.



Details can be added by drawing with the charcoal pencil and the retractable eraser.



Add the darker values with the charcoal stick. Experiment by using the side and end of the stick with varying amounts of pressure. You can also soften by smudging with your finger.



Have fun and enjoy!



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107 Cliff Park Road | Springfield, Ohio 45504 | smoa@springfieldart.net | springfieldart.net | 937.325.4673