

the coloured pencil comes of age

If you think you know all about coloured pencils, think again. **Lesley Crawford**, founder member of the UK Coloured Pencil Society, explains why every serious artist can benefit from their versatility. And below, four UKCPS members demonstrate through their pictures the potency of the medium.

From its humble beginnings, the coloured pencil is gradually becoming a medium to be appreciated in the art world. A far cry from the scratchy crayons of our schooldays, today's manufacturers produce pencils worthy of the serious artist, with exciting and extensive colour ranges and high quality pigments. The core of the pencils can vary from very hard and precise to soft and flowing.

Coloured pencils give you complete control over your artwork – they are familiar and clean, easily corrected, and their semi-transparent colours can be built up into rich and subtle shades, producing effects from loose expressive strokes to the sheen of an oil painting.

Watersoluble pencils have added to the versatility of the dry pencil, and pencils can also be combined with pastels, graphite, watercolour, and other mediums, to extend further the speed at which you can work and the range of styles achievable.

The professional artists below are all members of the UK Coloured Pencil Society, founded in 2001 to promote coloured pencils as a fine art medium. The UKCPS is open to all people with an interest in the medium, and the work of more artists, both professional and amateur, can be seen on the website www.ukcps.co.uk

Lesley Crawford is founder member of the UKCPS. View Lesley's work at www.gaia-art.co.uk

Johanna Pieterman

I was born in Goes, the Netherlands, in 1966 into a shipping family. The nomadic existence inspired me from early childhood and for as long as I can remember I was always happier with a box of pencils and some paper.

My first commissioned portraits were completed at the age of 16, and I have never looked back. I studied for a diploma in graphic design, and after spending many years developing my own style in coloured pencils, my first major solo exhibition took place in 1991 in Antwerp, Belgium. The following six years saw me create many more pieces, refine my style and build an identity in the art world, with exhibitions in Belgium, the Netherlands and the UK.

Feeling the need for a change and due to popular demand, the next six years were spent concentrating on commissioned work. This included fantasy portraits and illustrations for book and CD covers, for a wide range of international customers, including the rock guitarist Ritchie Blackmore. Other popular work inspired by Stevie Nicks has seen my art mentioned in US publications such as Jane's Magazine and Entertainment Weekly.

For more information and a wide range of work, visit www.johannas-art.com

Trans, 65x100cm.

Portrait of Linda, set in an Egyptian themed dimension with various animals accompanying her on her journey. This has a base layer of pastel, built up with coloured pencils. Some accents with watercolour paint were also applied.



Elthia, 60x80cm.

This portrait of woman and eagle was created using mainly pastel pencils, accentuating darker areas with coloured pencils, and adding magical touches with metallic inks.