It’s time now for you to see for yourself how dark tones create lights. The white lily against the dark background creates a striking yet simple drawing. Notice in the finished piece that even though the background shading is dark, it is not as dark as the darkest part of the flower stem. Both the stem and the bud are actually darker than the background. It is a subtle difference. However, it’s that type of tonal contrast that is essential to realistic drawing.

1 **CREATE THE LINE DRAWING**
   You can enlarge the object by drawing the grid boxes larger. Remember to draw your grid boxes very lightly. Then carefully draw the shapes you see in each box.

2 **REMOVE THE GRID**
   Carefully remove your grid with the kneaded eraser. Redraw any lines you may have lost.
3 COMPLETE THE DARKEST PART OF THE LILY
Begin detailing the lily by adding the dark areas as well as the areas of texture.

4 LET THE BACKGROUND CREATE THE LIGHT EDGES
Add the darkness to the background to create the light edges of the flower. Apply the tones as evenly as possible with the pencil. This will make the blending stage smoother.

5 FINISH THE DRAWING
Subtle tone differences make all the difference when capturing realism. Continue defining edges with your pencil for more clarity, blending out tones for smoothness and lifting highlights for realism. Take your time with this stage. Make sure your tones are accurate. Squint your eyes and compare your artwork against the photo reference, making sure your drawing is as close as possible in shapes, lights and darks.
**Water Droplets Are Spheres**

To draw water droplets, you’ll combine what you know about drawing spheres and glass. Each droplet reflects its surroundings just like a glass surface. Because each drop is separate and raised from the surface, it becomes another sphere exercise.

The cast shadow below each droplet is clearly visible, as is the shadow edge and reflected light. Because of the highly reflective nature of water, the contrasts are extreme.

**Dark Leaves Accentuate Reflective Droplets**
Place water droplets on deepened tones such as the rose’s leaves to make them seem more reflective. The lights of each drop really contrast with the leaves. Don’t forget the cast shadows!
Your skills with basic shapes will help you draw water. Drawing water droplets is nothing more than reflective sphere exercises that contain patterns of light and dark. Here, the darkness of the leaves helps the droplets stand out. Concentrate on accentuating the dark and light contrasts when depicting wet objects.

1. **CREATE THE LINE DRAWING**
   Draw the outline of the leaf along with the veins and droplets.

2. **ADD THE TONES AND SHADOW EDGES**
   Add the tones of the leaves with your pencil. Place dark tones on the center vein and underneath each water drop. Fill in the shadow edge inside of each drop.

3. **DEEPEN AND BLEND THE TONES**
   Deepen the tones of the leaves and blend with a tortillion. Add some shading to the droplets and deepen the shadows below them. Lift reflective light out of the droplets and in the veins of the leaves.
This flower has a lot of overlapping petals and an extreme light source. This combination creates many extremes of light and dark tones and shadows. The grid method for capturing shapes is really handy when drawing flowers and helps to capture the tiny details.

Reference Photo

1 CREATE THE LINE DRAWING
Use the grid to create a line drawing with a mechanical pencil. When your drawing is accurate, erase the gridlines with a kneaded eraser.

2 OUTLINE THE EDGES AND BEGIN THE SHADOWS
Fill in the center of the flower with Canary Yellow using circular pencil strokes. Once the Canary Yellow layer is complete, overlap it with Limepeel on the upper side of the flower’s center. Along the left side, overlap the Canary Yellow with Magenta. This will accentuate the center of the flower.

With Magenta, begin outlining the petals. Look for areas that are extremely dark and areas that are lighter, and use thinner lines and less pressure in the light areas. Lightly fill in some of the shadow areas with Magenta to begin the look of overlapping petals.
3 BUILD THE TONES
Continue building the tones of the flower. Add more creases to the petals with Magenta and fill the lower sides of the petals with Hot Pink. Use Process Red to layer the left sides of each petal’s shadows.

With Black, add some small circles to the flower’s center. Use a light touch—you don’t want the circles too dark. Also use the Black to create the shadows along the edges of the flower’s center. Follow the patterns carefully, paying close attention to how the edges weave under some of the petals.

4 DEEPEN THE TONES AND FILL IN THE BACKGROUND
Finish the drawing by building up the Magenta, Hot Pink and Process Red. Allow some of the white of the paper to show through to give the petals a streaked appearance.

You can leave the paper white if you like, or choose to fill in the background with a solid application of color. A black background really makes the flower stand out, but any color will work.
Practice drawing a flower against a completed background. I cropped the photo to focus on just one of the flowers, and to eliminate some of the unnecessary subject matter. Create the drawing in the size you want the piece to be, and use transfer paper to place the line drawing to the suede board. Once the drawing is transferred to the board, you can clean up any smudges with a kneaded eraser. Do not use any other type of eraser, because it will damage the surface of the paper.

Reference Photo

1 TRANSFER THE DRAWING ONTO SUEDE BOARD
Use the grid method to capture this flower on regular drawing paper. It is not possible to use the grid method on suede board, so the line drawing must first be created on a regular piece of drawing paper and then transferred using transfer paper. (See Lee’s Lessons on the facing page for instructions.)

2 BEGIN ADDING THE UDERTONES AND THE BACKGROUND
Once you have successfully transferred the line drawing to the suede board, begin adding Canary Yellow to the flower petals and flower pods.

Begin adding the background color to create the edges of the flower. Use Parrot Green for the overall background tone, Spring Green for the leaf areas and Light Green for the pale leaves on the right side. At this point, all the undertones of the drawing should be placed on the suede board like a colored road map.
3 DEEPEN THE TONES
Continue adding color to the flower by overlapping the Canary Yellow with Orange. Use the Orange to outline the edges and ridges of the flower where it bends and curves.

Deepen the tones of the background with Peacock Green, which is mostly in the shadows. Use Dark Green and Black for the darkest green tones. Study the patterns of color closely in the finished example.

Add some Yellow Chartreuse to the brightly colored leaves and flower pods.

4 FINISH THE DRAWING
Add Crimson Red to the flower in the recessed areas in the center. Use the Crimson Red to create some of the crisp edges and the striations within the petals. With Tuscan Red, fill in the stamens and use Black for their edges. Use Tuscan Red to outline the edges of the petals in the center.

Continue deepening the colors of the background. Layer some Black over the Peacock Green in the upper right corner to create the illusion of depth. Develop the patterns and colors until your drawing comes to life.

THINGS TO REMEMBER
- Complementary color schemes make flowers pop on the page.
- Use the grid method when drawing flowers to help capture tiny details.
- Only use kneaded erasers on suede board—others will damage the surface of the paper.
- Consider drawing flowers on suede board for a softer, smoother appearance.

LEE’S LESSONS
Transfer paper can be found in any arts and crafts store. Sketch your line drawing on the back side of the transfer paper with a soft graphite pencil. Carefully place the paper, graphite side down, over the suede board. Outline the image with a regular pencil and the graphite underneath will transfer to the suede board.

Once the drawing is transferred, clean up any smudges with a kneaded eraser. Do not use any other type of eraser, because it will damage the surface of the paper.
Get your copy of *Lifelike Drawing with Lee Hammond* & *Lifelike Drawing in Colored Pencil with Lee Hammond* at North Light Shop today!

Want More?

CLICK HERE

Connect with Us