

Colour and texture using Artbars

by Sarah Taylor

Materials Used

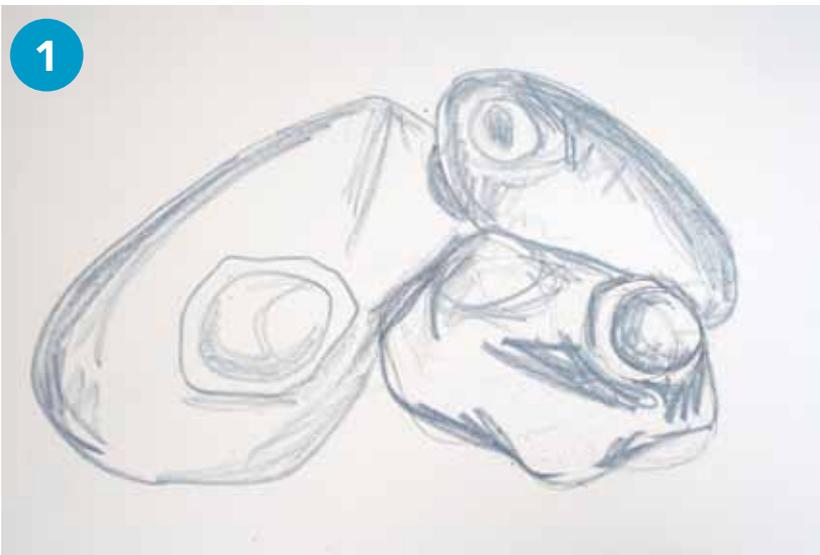
Derwent Artbar: Blue Grey, Black, Scots Pine, Spearmint, Opaque White, Dark Turquoise, Sweetcorn, Yellow Grey, Mango, Blue Grey, Marigold, Burnt Umber, Blue Lace, Paynes Grey, Violet Oxide, Amethyst, Honeycomb, Carnation, Process Magenta, Strawberry, Beige, Midnight, Tertiary Purple

Smooth watercolour paper
Derwent Spritzer
Paintbrush



We can use the fantastic array of colours in the Artbar range to bring these stones to life. We also get to try out the wonderful features of Artbar; they are excellent for adding texture, and layering, and work in a completely different way to any other Derwent product.

1



Step 1

Draw a rough sketch of the stones with Blue Grey. It doesn't matter if it's not precise because with Artbar we can always make changes as we go along.

2



Step 2

Use the Black to add in some darker shadows; this is just a basic starting point to mark out the shape of the stones.

TOP TIP: To make it easier to pick out where dark and light tones are on the grey subject squint as you look at them.

3



Step 3

This is where we're starting to introduce some unexpected colour. The stones have lots of different colours and shades which in their own right then have hints of different hues. The stone on the left is a warm yellowy grey, the stone in the foreground has a purple tinge to it, and the right hand stone has a green tint. Let's liven this grey up and really draw on the tints shown in the stores.

Starting with the right hand stone, we'll start to work into this with Scots Pine and Spearmint for the highlighted areas.

4



Step 4

Artbar works differently when you come to blend and add colour; here we are going to start layering up these 2 colours to create a really intense, thick pigment. The bars work over one another, but also start to blend together at the same time.

Add Opaque White for the highlights, a touch of Dark Turquoise into the shadows, and some Sweetcorn into the circle mark on the stone.

We don't have to worry about the rough marks we have made with the bars, as we can easily smooth the colours out using a top tip!

TOP TIP: Breathe some warm air onto the stone and start to smudge the colour with your finger to create a lovely smooth stone.

5



Step 5

Moving onto the stone on the left hand side of the composition; this stone has a slightly warm yellow grey tint so we will start to build up colour like we did on the first stone. Use Yellow Grey on the majority of the stone and add Mango into the lighter areas.

Now bring in some Opaque White, Blue Grey and some Marigold, working up the layers to create some really dense colour, watch how the colours begin to work and blend together.

To bring the shaded areas out more, add some Burnt Umber, and work up layers with this and Marigold.

Add some Dark Turquoise into the surface of the stone where the green stone rests upon it. Continue to build up the layers, finishing off with some white marks on top. Colour the white circle with Blue Lace and Opaque White.



Step 6

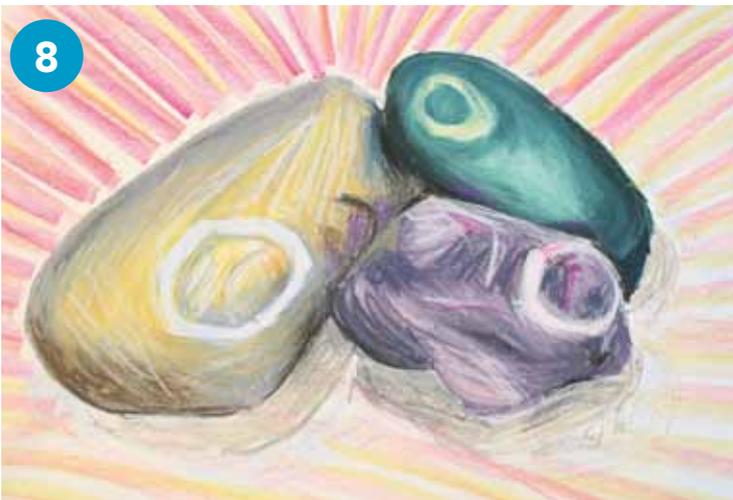
Use Paynes Grey on the final stone and start to build up the shadow



Step 7

We layer up Violet Oxide, Amethyst and Yellow Grey to build up our purple stone.

Once we are happy with the tones of purple, we add some white marks over the top. As it is a rough stone we want the marks to reflect this.



Step 8

Let's add some background; make some marks with the Honeycomb, Carnation, Process Magenta and Mango. Take your Derwent Spritzer (that you have already filled with water) and spray this over your background. Allow the colours to start dispersing and mixing. Brush over with a paintbrush.



Step 9

Allow this to dry and go over with Opaque White, Blue Grey and Strawberry until the background suits the stones. Add some Beige to the shadows under the stones. Spray a little water onto the yellow stone to soften the lines, and spread some around with the paintbrush. Use the wet paintbrush to smooth the purple stone slightly.



Step 10

To finish off add some more lines to the purple stone using Midnight and Burnt Umber in the darker areas, and Tertiary Purple to brighten things up. Finally add the thin white lines that scar the stones.

The great thing about Derwent Artbar is that it is so forgiving; you can keep on working over the top and layering colours to totally change what you have previously done. The vast range of colours is even organised by tonal range, so if you are putting in highlights all the light colours are in one place.