

TECHNIQUES: SCUMBLING

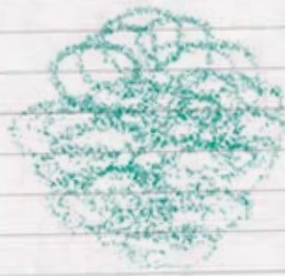
For a ton of control and very smooth, even application where you don't see any strokes at all, perfect the scumbling technique. Use a very sharp pencil, turning it often to keep the point sharp, and apply the smallest circular motion you can muster very, very lightly. Slightly overlap here and there. If you use too much pressure, you'll burnish (flatten the paper tooth, making the paper smooth). If your circular motion is too large, you'll get anything but a smooth look. Think circular motion, not circles, when using this technique. Scumbling is slow, slow, slow, and is definitely a technique only for the very patient artist. For some, it will seem tedious, but others will find it soothing and meditative!

HINT: Stroke Techniques

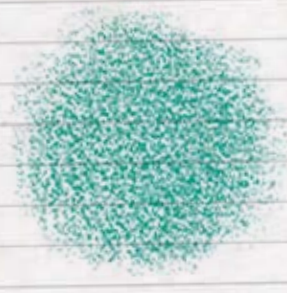
Many of these depend on you feathering the stroke. Rather than starting and ending each stroke with a definite pressure, descend and lift off with each stroke. This creates a very light area at the top and bottom of each stroke that blends easily and prevents overlapping. Keep this in mind no matter what strokes you're using.



too much pressure



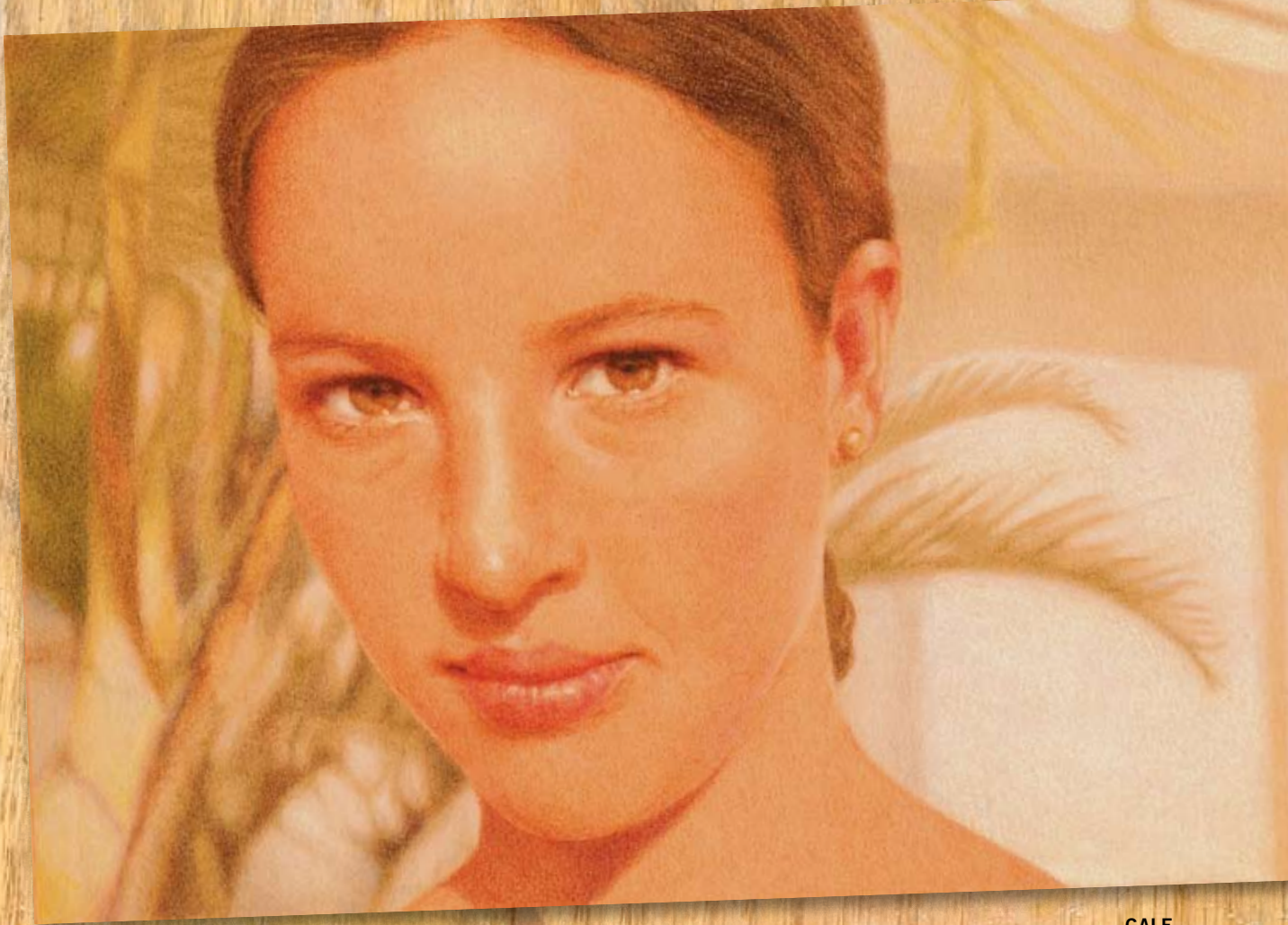
too large



correct

SCUMBLING

Apply pencil with a very small, very light circular motion, as on the far right.



GALE

by Holly Mahla

6" x 9" (15cm x 23cm)

colored pencil on paper

SCUMBLING IN ACTION

A perfectly smooth, perfectly controlled application leads to subtle value and color blends. Gorgeous!