

# An Exciting New Drawing Medium

Art is occasionally blessed with new innovations in its continual development. Ground-breaking new mediums are rare – but when they arrive on the scene they are a source of excitement for many. Here, an experienced Australian artist describes her joy at discovering Matisse Derivan Liquid Pencil.

By Sue Raccanello



Perhaps, as an artist, all you care about is the medium you are using.

You don't care what's actually in the product – you just want to create with it.

Whether it be acrylics, watercolours, oils, charcoals, or even crayons, we concern ourselves with colour first; placing performance and flexibility at a very close second (especially for the project we are doing at the time).

The surface we are painting on is of concern ... however not to the degree of the medium itself.

When Matisse Derivan offered me an experimental sample of Liquid Pencil, I was eager to have a go at something new.

As an artist, I like to try everything.

I have even been known to 'mix it all together' to see what results I could achieve.

For me, when something new comes along, it is like a 'gift' to savour.

The only information I was given about Matisse Derivan Liquid Pencil was that it had graphite in it, and that it was re-wettable.

With dagger brush in hand and some 300gsm cold pressed watercolour paper, I set off on a journey of discovery and renewed my interest in drawing.

To my surprise, I fell for Liquid Pencil instantly!

I began to use it like watercolour, laying-in all my lightest values first, with very watery washes.

"Not too hard so far," I was thinking.

I quickly discovered that I could build and layer Liquid Pencil just like watercolour, however allowing each layer to dry (which took very little time, considering the amount of water I was adding).

I found that as I built the painting, I was using less water. Finally, I was using the medium straight from the bottle to achieve the darkest areas on my design.

And joy! I could moisten a cotton bud and take stuff back out! I especially like to make the 'shine' in eyes in this manner.

Next, I thought I'd try Liquid Pencil on canvas.

After rolling several coats of Matisse White Gesso onto the canvas to give myself the best possible tooth, I applied Matisse Derivan Liquid Pencil again.

To my surprise, it was even easier to use on canvas!

To put my own discovery to the test, I taught a Liquid Pencil workshop to a full room of fellow painters. Like me, they enjoyed a wonderful journey of discovery. They laughed and painted the entire day away, only to finish up 'in love with Liquid Pencil' just like me.

They too have a whole new outlook on what can be achieved in a relatively short time, and the amazing results which are possible. They especially loved the fact that (on canvas in particular) the re-wettable liquid pencil could be washed off.

I would urge everyone to have a play with this wonderful new product.

Discover for yourself the outstanding results that can be achieved with the rewarding and innovative Matisse Derivan Liquid Pencil. Pictured here are just some of the images I have been able to create with this special product. ■

