Charcoal Flower Drawing: Smudge, Blend and Erase for Petal Tones

Topic reference / ordinary illustration



Ordinary topic reference. Hypothetical dimensions in the four tasks are supplied in their own text; this illustration is not their measured answer.

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Worked example / complete source key

A single open bloom with five petals is drawn at hand width. Petal 1 overlaps petal 2 at the base. The light comes from the upper left. Describe the tonal plan: where to smudge, where to blend, where to erase, and how the stem is treated.

Answer: Smudge a light mid tone across the lower half of petal 1 and the upper half of petal 2, working from the overlap outward. Blend the border between those two tones so the overlap reads as one shadow. Erase a small pointed highlight on the upper-left edge of petal 1 and a thin vein on petal 3, then blend each border lightly. Keep petals 4 and 5 mostly light with only a smudged base. Draw the stem with compressed charcoal, darker than any petal, and erase a thin light line along its left side. The darkest dark sits at the petal 1 and 2 overlap; the lightest light is the erased edge on petal 1.