

## Finishing with spray varnish

by Jack Brumbaugh

*Jack describes his process for protecting and finishing oil pastels using Kamar Spray Varnish.*



- To start with, the only restriction I place on when to apply the varnish is when I'm sure that I'm done with the drawing (painting).
- I don't wait for a drying period, but keep in mind that I don't use Senneliers, which are quite oily, and I do very little blending.
- It's probably a good idea to add here, that for anyone considering this method, they should try it on something that they don't care too much about.
- Kamar is a spray varnish and I apply it outdoors. I zigzag horizontally and then vertically about eighteen inches away from the surface. It dries quickly, depending on the weather, and I wait ten or fifteen minutes between coats.
- After three or four coats, I gently test the surface with a clean rag or just my fingers to see if the pigment is stable. If not, I add another coat. I've been using this varnishing technique for about ten years and haven't seen any bad effects with the passage of time. I have to stress, again though, that we don't all use the medium in the same way, and that I suggest some experimentation on something that's not important to you, before you try it on a valuable drawing (painting).