

# Shading Tips



Tracy Anne Wilkinson

## Table Of Contents

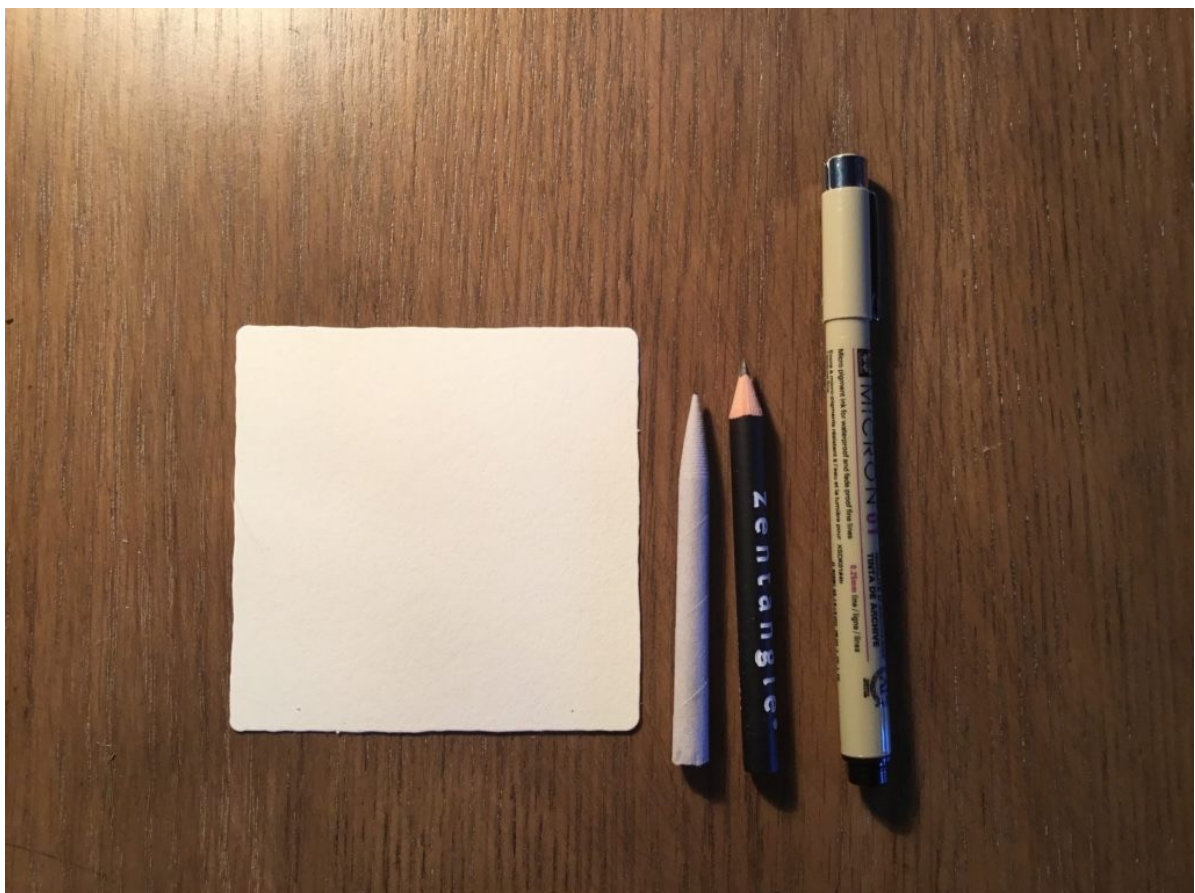
Shading Techniques	2
Drawing the patterns	3
7 Tips to help you shade your Zentangle® Inspired Art	5
More Shading Tips	11
Tip Number 1 - Observation	11
Tip Number 2 -How close to the surface is the Object?	14
Putting it all together - Dragonfly Project	15
The finished results	19

### Shading Techniques

When I first started creating Zentangle art, I was confused about how to shade each piece. If Zentangle art is non representational, do the principles for shading that apply to other artwork still apply?

The answer is both yes and no. You can of course create a light source and use the normal rules that apply to adding shadows or you can be totally creative in where you shade your Zentangle art. I have now come up with 7 tips that will help you create fun, three dimensional drawings. In order to demonstrate these steps I will be using two easy Zentangle patterns. These patterns are ideal Zentangle patterns for beginners.

You will need a square paper tile (or any paper of your choice), a pencil, tortillon, and black pen (I used a micron PN)



## Drawing the patterns

You can follow the step outs of the tangle patterns Printemps and Crescent moon, on

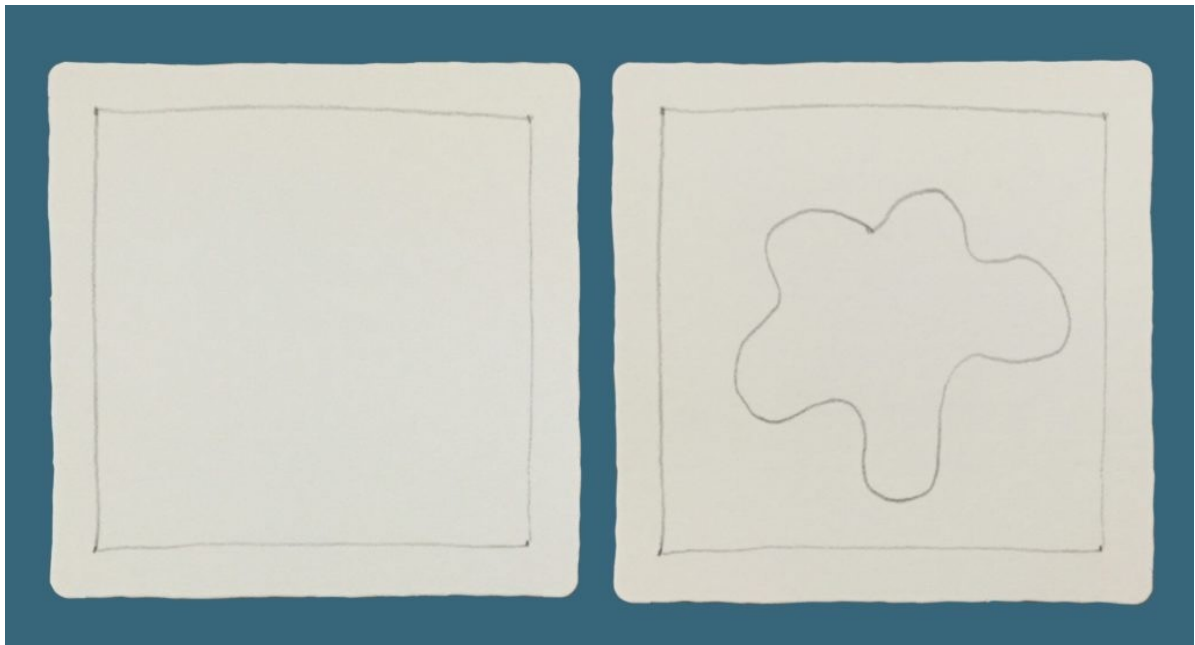
[Zentangle Mosaic app](#) or on [tanglepatterns.com](https://tanglepatterns.com)

### Step 1

Draw a dot in each corner then join to create a border

### Step 2

Draw an irregular closed shape in the centre of the tile as a string (The border and string are just guides to where your patterns will sit)





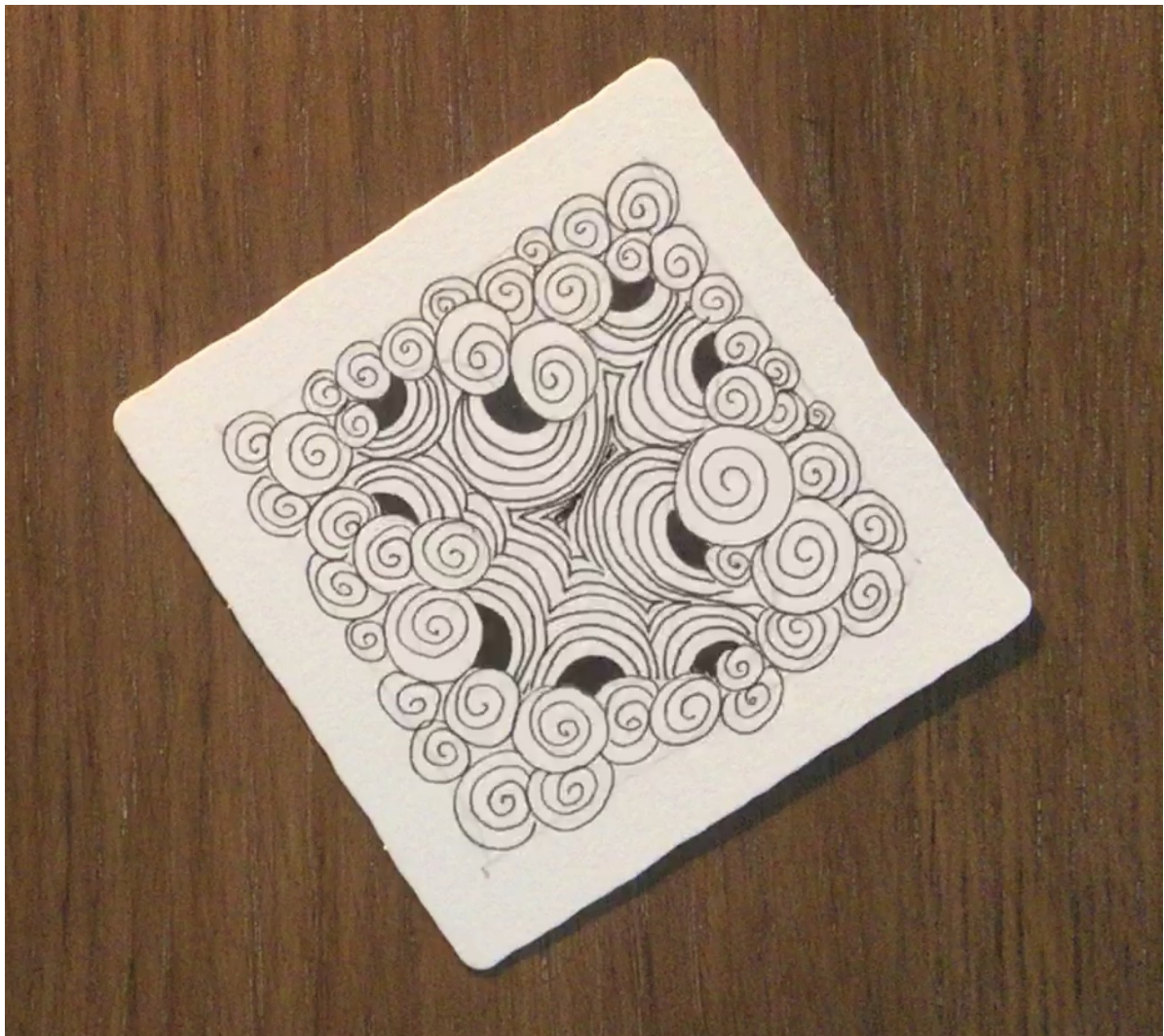
## Step 3

Between the border and string fill with the pattern Printemps

When drawing the printemps pattern, vary the size of each circular shape to create interest.

## Step 4

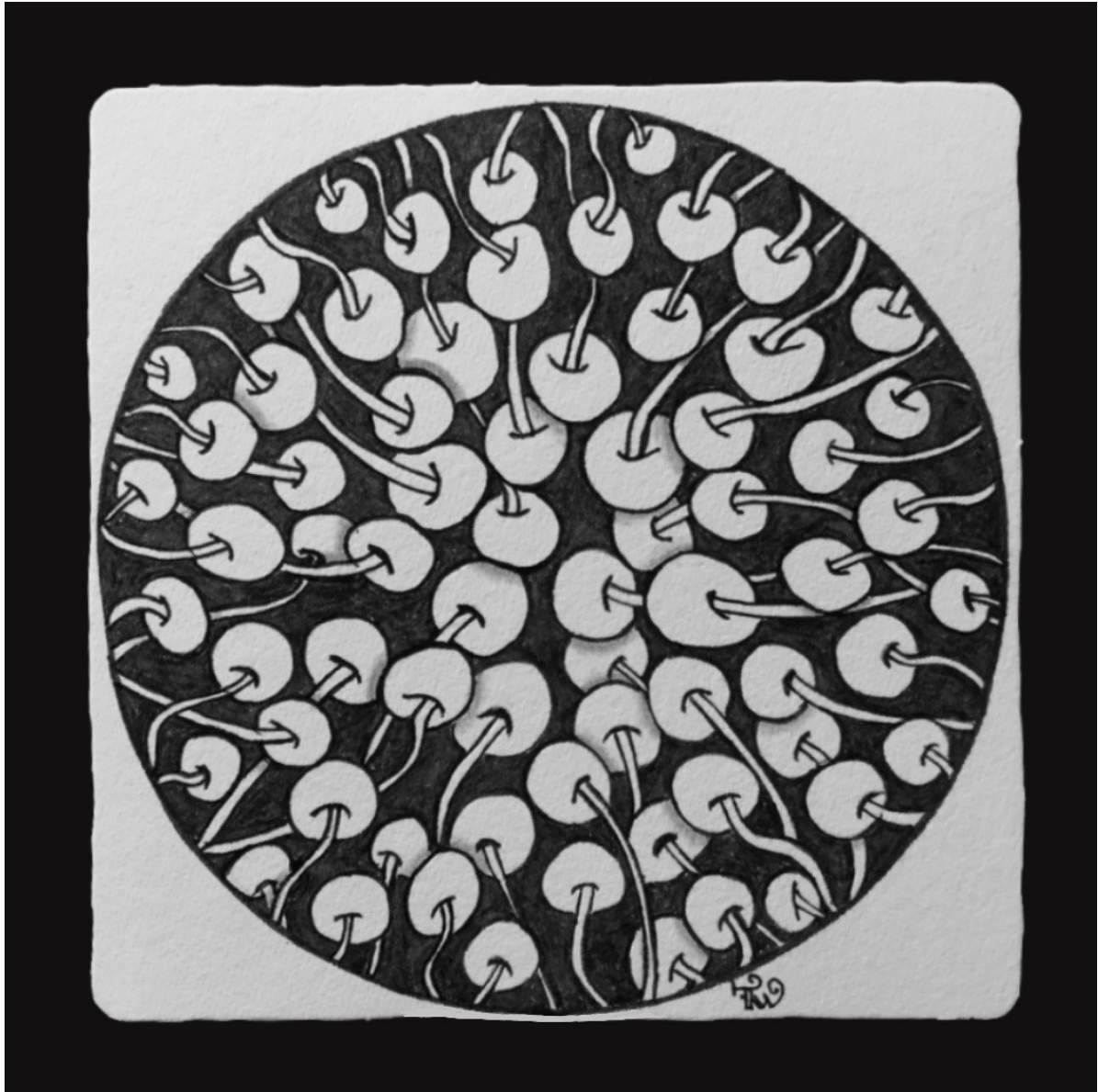
In the centre of the tile within the closed shape draw the pattern Crescent Moon.



## 7 Tips to help you shade your Zentangle® Inspired Art

### #Tip 1 How much ink did I use?

The more ink you have used on your drawing, the less shading is required.

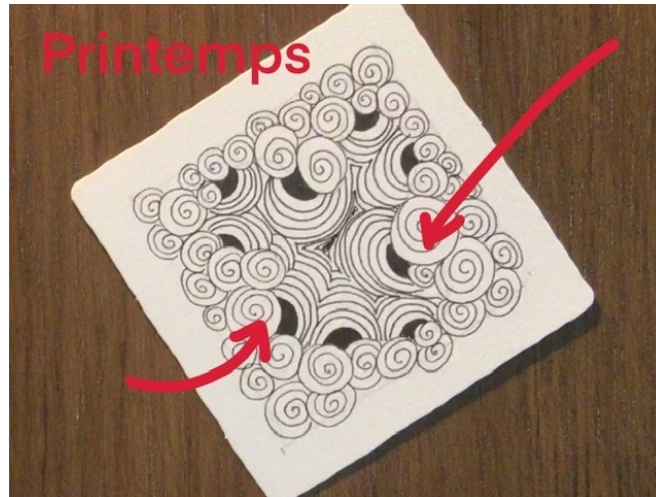


As you can see in the above example, there is a lot of ink but very little shading.

The tile we just created used less ink so more shading will be required.

## #Tip 2 What do I want to stand out?

Pick the part of your pattern that you would like to stand out from the rest.

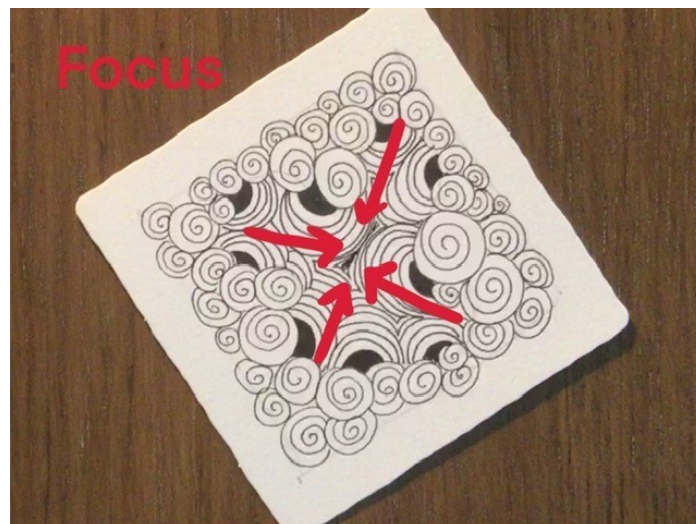


In this piece I have decided to let the Printemps pattern stand out. To make it stand out it will need it to be lighter in colour as darker colours recede.

## #Tip 3 Where do I want my eyes to travel?

Where do you want your eyes to travel when looking at your piece of art?

I want my eyes to travel down into the centre of the tile as if looking down into a canyon.



## #Tip 4 Are there any shapes that are round or curved?

If any patterns are round or curved, shading can emphasise the roundness of the pattern. In the tile I just created I want to emphasise the curves in the crescent moon pattern.

## #Tip 5 Do any of my patterns overlap?

If any patterns are overlapping, place a shadow on the pattern underneath.

The Printemps overlaps the crescent moon so I will place a shadow under the rim of the Printemps casting a shadow over the crescent moon.

The Printemps also overlap each other so I will draw a faint shadow where these overlap. It is important to keep the Printemps light in colour so that it stands out.

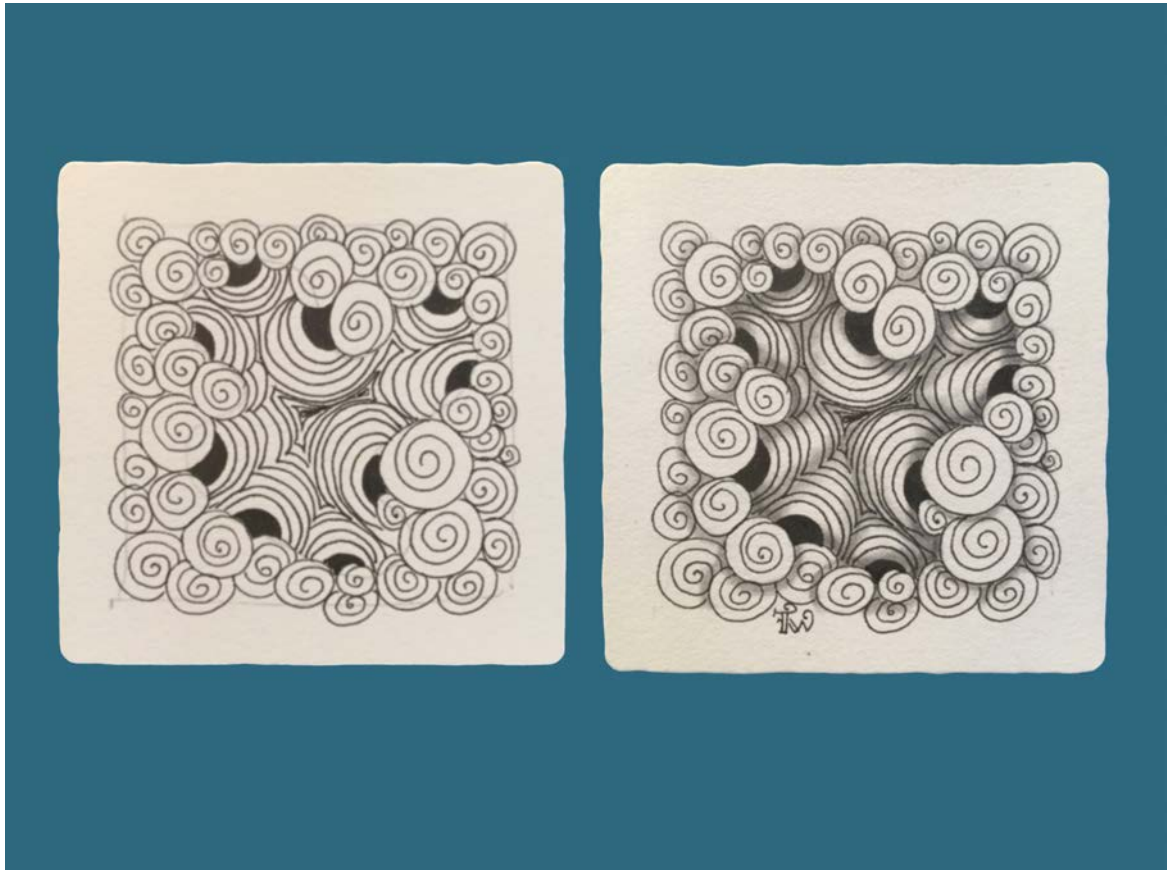
## #Tip 6 Build up shadows gradually

Start shading lightly, you can always build up the intensity of the shadow later on,

## #Tip 7 Leave some white spaces

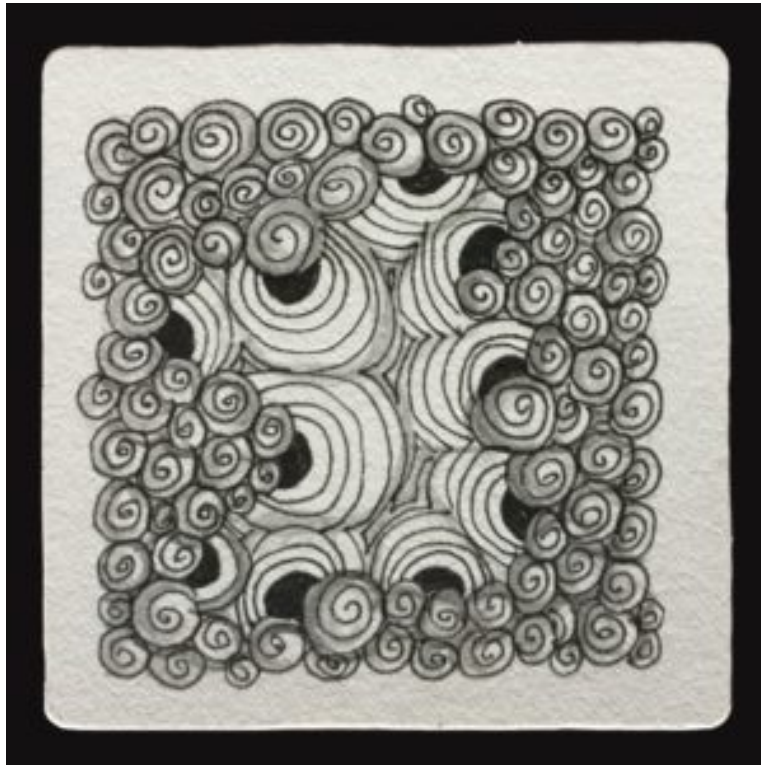
If the shading is overdone, it takes the effect away from the piece so it is important to leave white spaces.



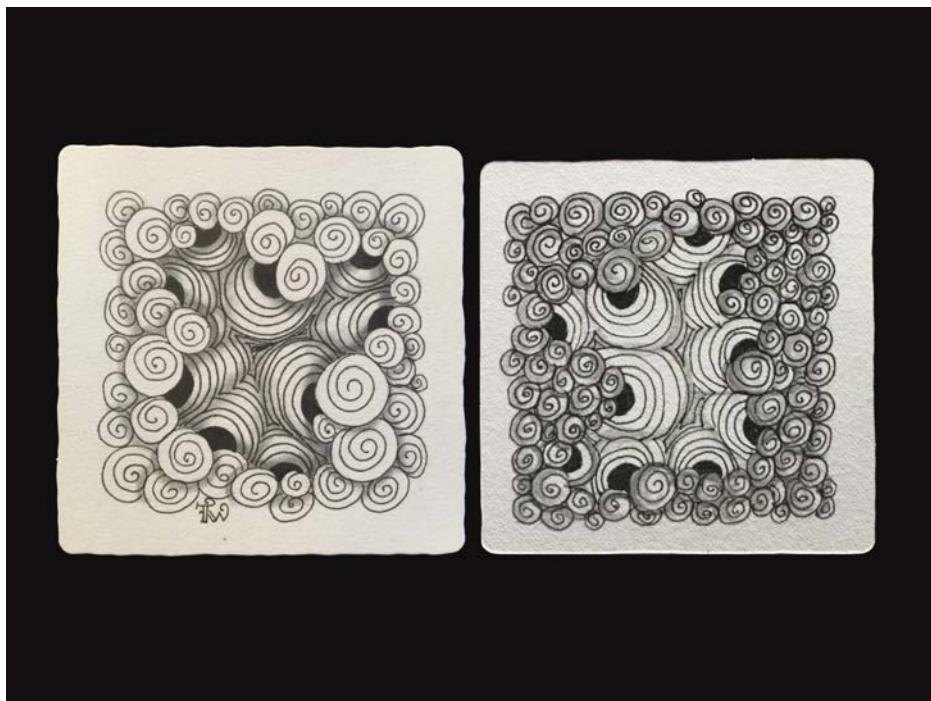


Notice how the shading makes the patterns pop? By emphasising the crevices with shading, our eyes are drawn down into the centre of the tile. The lighter colour of the Printemps makes it stand out from the rest but with a little bit of shading where the patterns overlap makes some shapes look to sit above what is drawn behind. By shading around the curves of the crescent moon, the roundness of these shapes have been emphasised.

There are no rules to shading Zentangles. Here is an example of how the tile might look if I placed the shading in other areas:



Which do you like the best?



To make things a little bit easier follow along with this video:



## More Shading Tips

Although we can shade without thinking about a light source as I demonstrated in the first section of this ebook, responding to a light source in our art work adds more dimension.

### Tip Number 1 - Observation

Observe the environment. Look at shadows. Ask yourself the following questions:

Where is the light source coming from?

How long is the shadow?

Is the shadow close to the object or is there a gap?

Are there any highlights on the object?

How dark is the shadow?

In order to observe shadows, I did an experiment. I created a 3 dimensional representation of the tangle Marasu out of plasticine.

I then darkened a room and used a desk lamp to create a single light source.





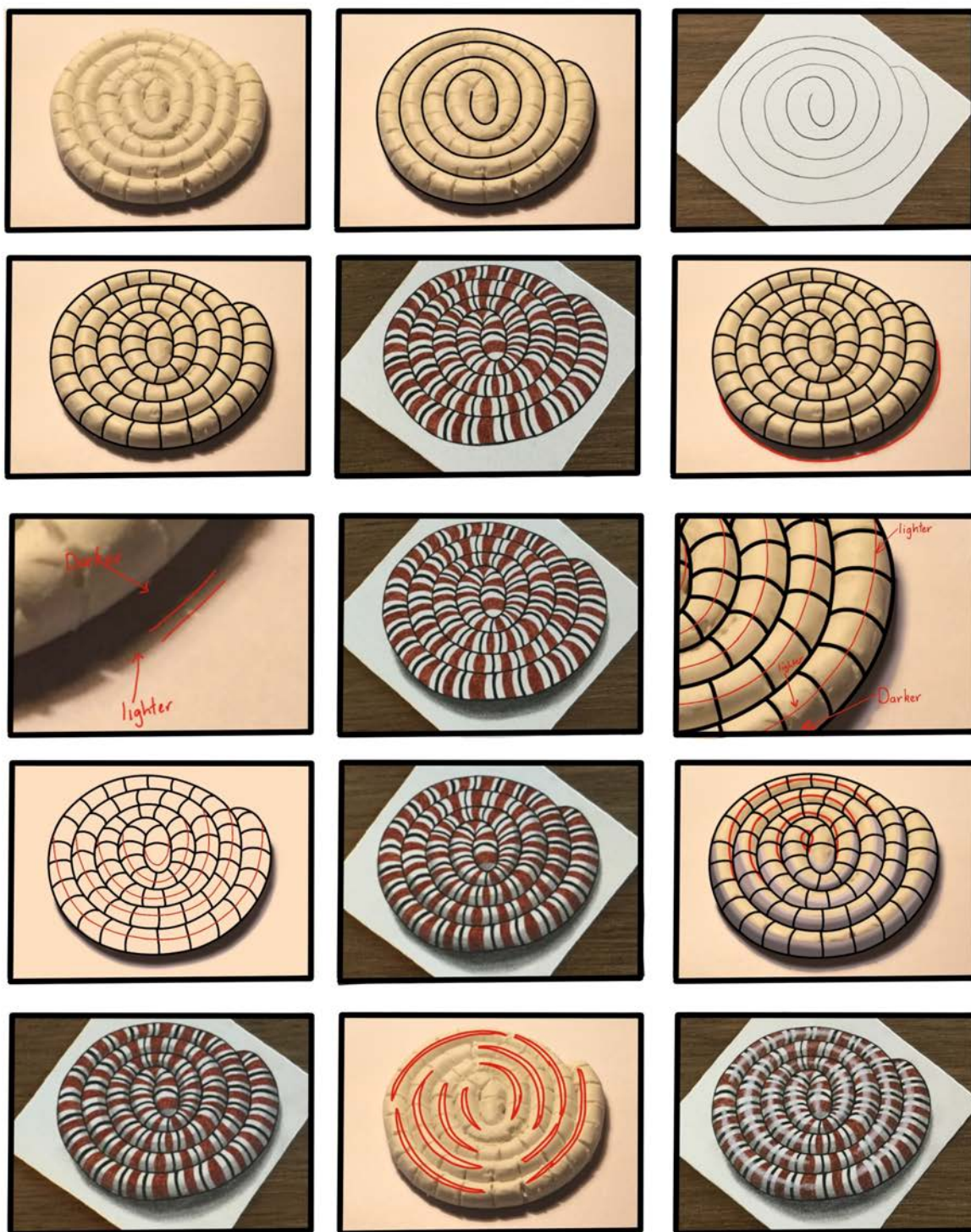
I observed that the shadow length depended on how high the lamp was.

I also observed that the shadow changed as I changed my own position.

I took photos of the 3 dimensional marasu and chose one of them to use as a reference to my drawing.

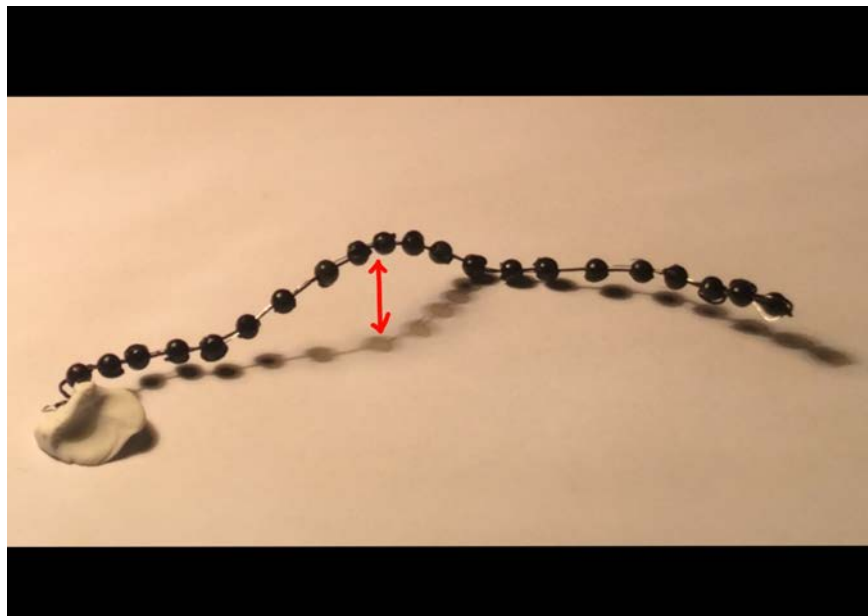
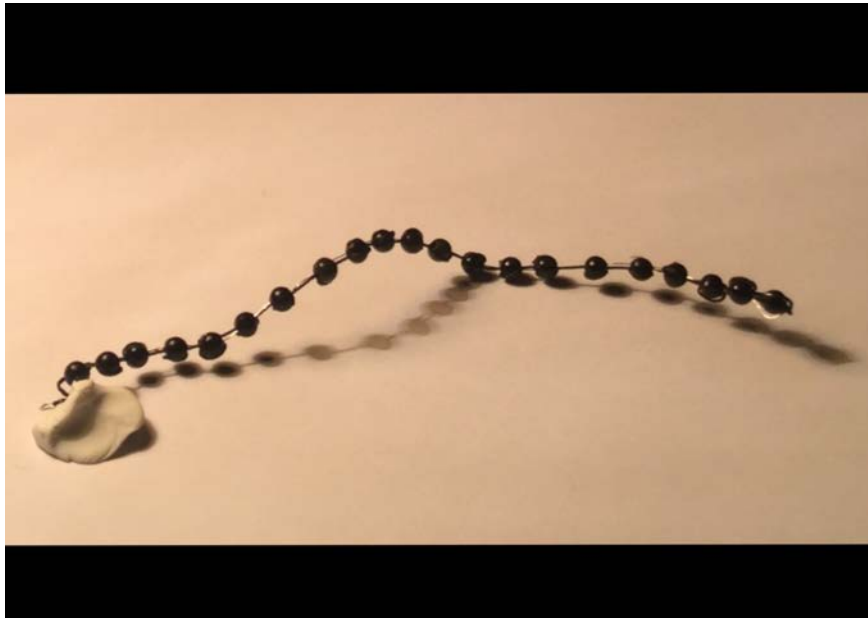


On the following Page I show you all the steps I used to complete my drawing.



## Tip Number 2 -How close to the surface is the Object?

I noticed that some shadows did not touch the actual three dimensional object so I made a string of beads on some wire so that I could manipulate them.



The further away the beads were from the table, the bigger the gap between the beads and the shadow.

## Putting it all together - Dragonfly Project

Using a Zendala tile, I drew a border then a dragonfly.



Then I added some tangles.





I decided where my light source was coming from



Then drew some shadows.



I coloured the dragonfly using Prismacolor pencils, then outlined it with gold gel pen.



I used watercolour pencils to colour the border. I touched it up with coloured pencils then used an aqua coloured pencil to enhance the border with the tangle, 'Toodles'.





Using a black micron pen, I went over my line art to give it more clarity and definition.



## The finished results

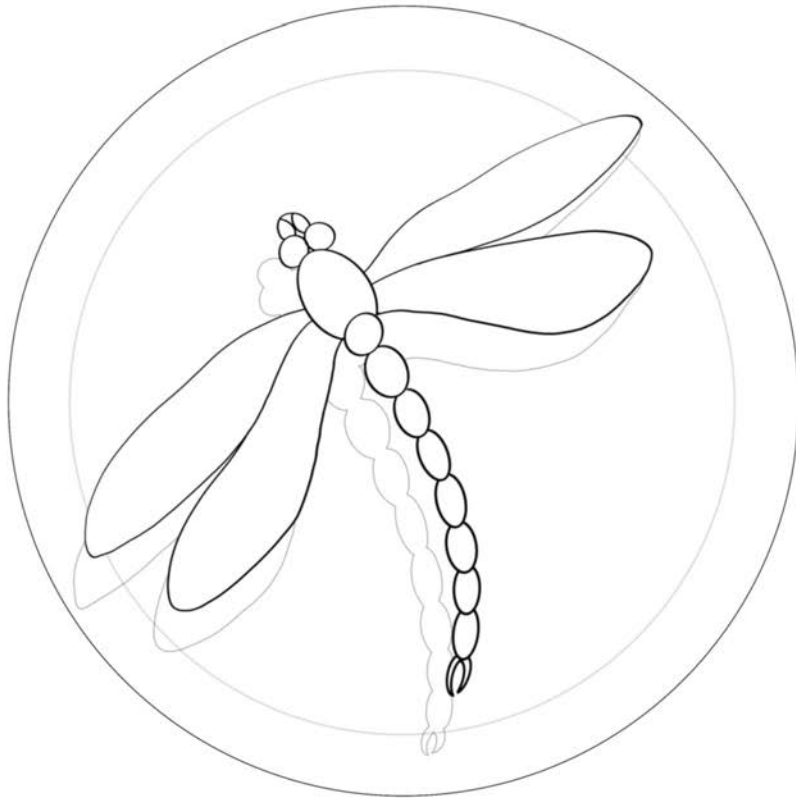
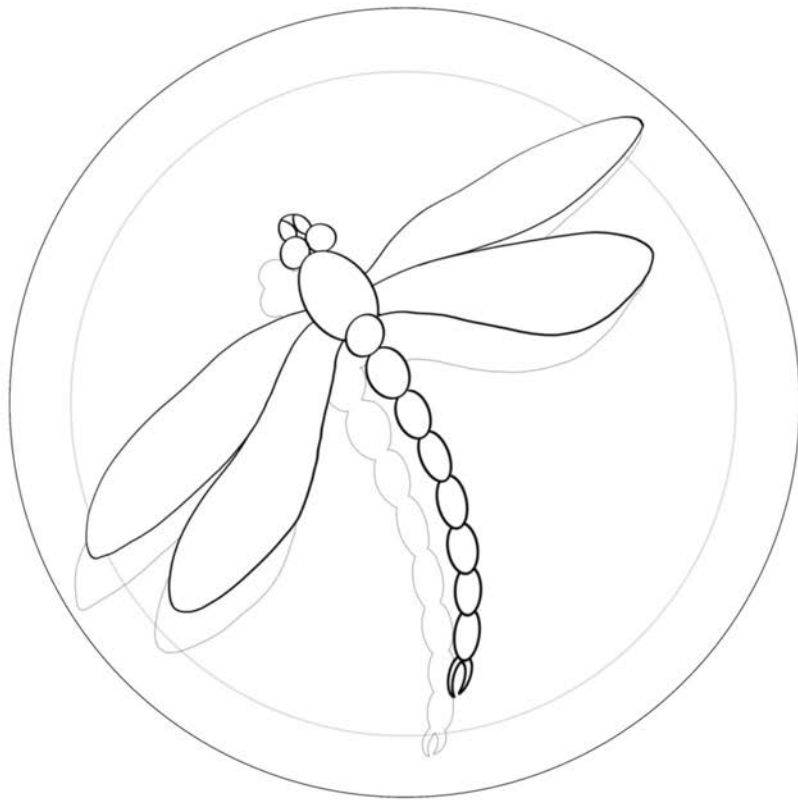


This was a fun project! I hope you like it too. You can watch me create this on youtube.



On the next page I will provide you with a drawing of the dragonfly so that you can tangle on it and colour it in.





# Tangle with Tracy Anne

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