Creating a Drawing from any Image

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Mod: 8-6-11 orig: July, 2011

The following procedure can be used to change any image into a pencil or charcoal like drawing. It can later be modified to include some color, giving it a pastel look.

- 1- Do the best you can to create a good color image. It should be sharp and have good color edges.
- 2- Flatten your image
- 3- Copy the background layer (ctl+j)
- 4- On the copied layer go to filter>stylize>find edges
- 5- Change the image to B&W.
 - a. Click the B&W cookie at the bottom of the layers pallet and select "Black and White".
- 6- Create a "curves" adjustment layer
 - a. Slide the left most curve point at the bottom (dark end) toward the right to darken the edges.
 - b. Slide the bright end of the curve point down to darken the whites to obtain more mid-tones.
- 7- Create a "brightness/Contrast layer
 - a. Increase the contrast to enhance the edges
 - b. Adjust the brightness to balance the image.
- 8- Done
- 9- To add back some color to create a more water color look:
 - a. Copy the background (original color layer)
 - b. Move it to the top of the stack
 - c. Change the blending mode to "overlay" or "soft light".
 - d. Adjust the opacity to reduce the amount of color in the image to provide a hint of color for the water color appearance.