



THE EYES HAVE IT

Introduction

Albert Einstein once said, "The definition of genius is taking the complex and making it simple."

Now I'm no genius, but it is true that the same concept applies to art. Art is a visual form of communication, and like any other form of communication, keeping things clear and as simple as possible is the best way to make sure that our work is understood. The mark of a great artist is the ability to take the complexity of the natural world and describe it with simple lines and colors in a way that is instantly recognizable at a glance.

We will attempt to do just that in this class.

The human eye is a complex organ, but today we will simplify it down to the bare essentials. It's gonna be quick, it's gonna be easy, and it's gonna be fun!

Ok, let's get started!

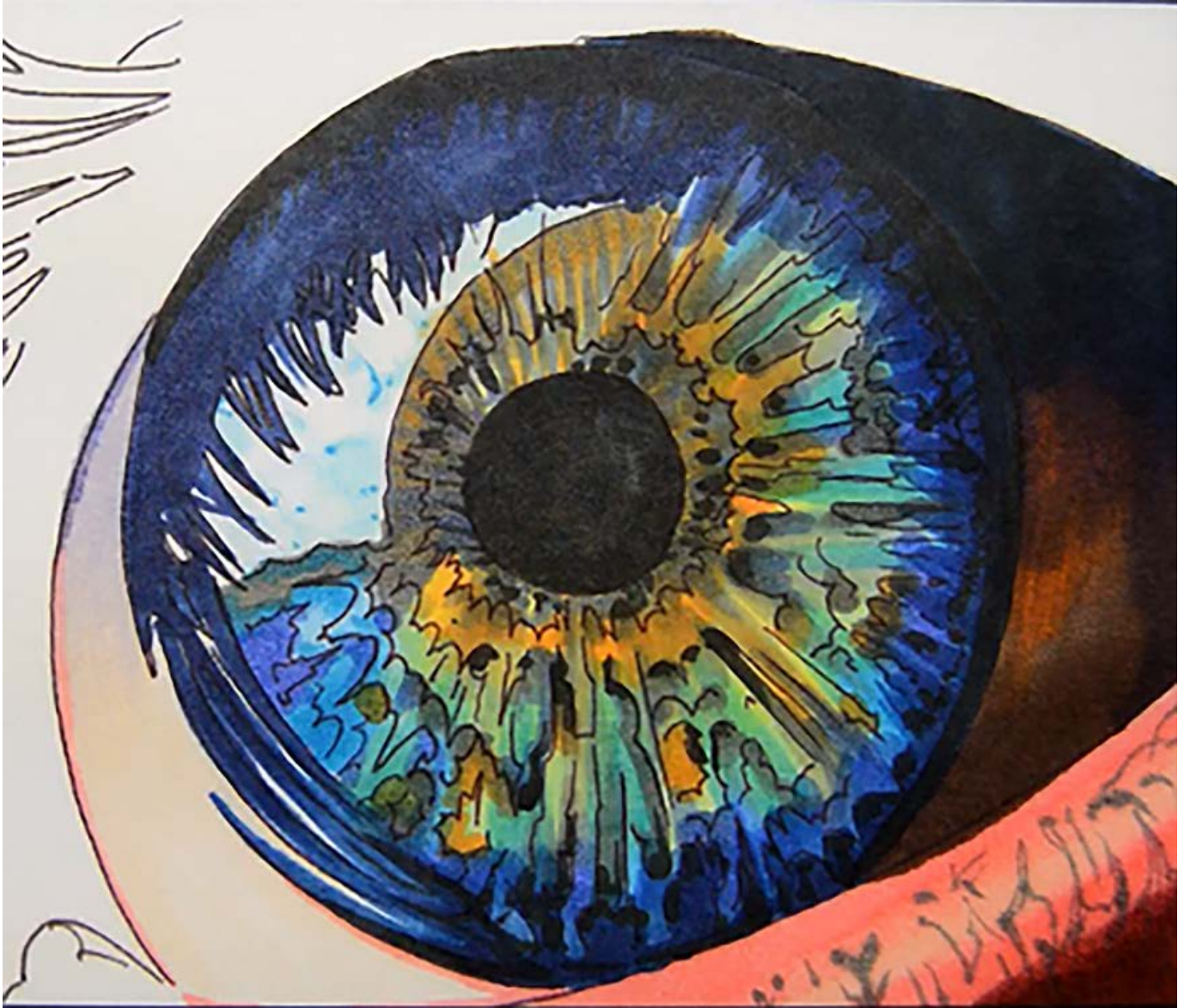
Copic Colors Used For The Class Page

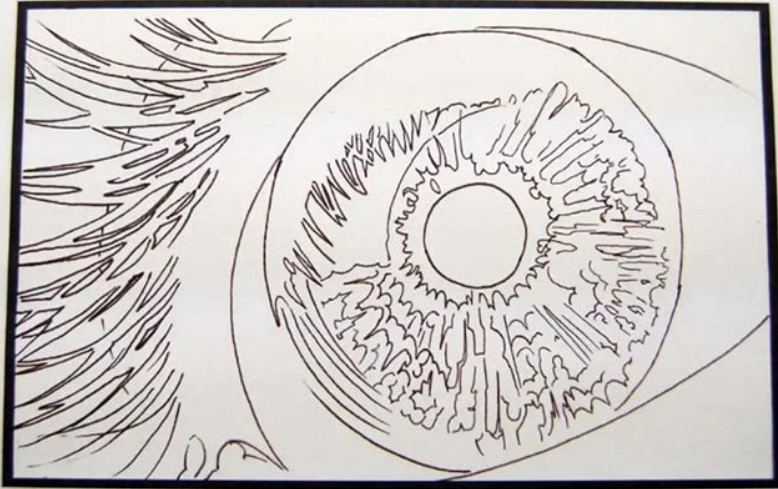
(Refer to the color conversion chart for non Copic alternatives)

E000		
E13		R20
E18	BV00	R27
E33	BV04	R43
E77		R89
	V17	
B00		T4
B05	Y11	T5
B12		T6
B37	YR14	T8
B39	YR16	T9
B66		T10

Chapter One:

Coloring The Iris And Eyeball

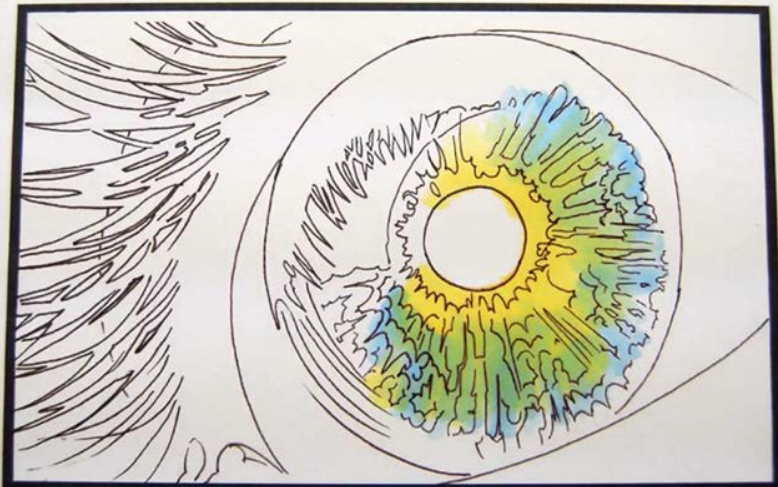




For this class I'll be using a black line drawing and coloring on plain old everyday copy paper. I'll be honest, copy paper is quickly becoming my very favorite type of paper to color on with Copics! Don't let the seemingly complex drawing fool you! This is gonna be a piece of cake!



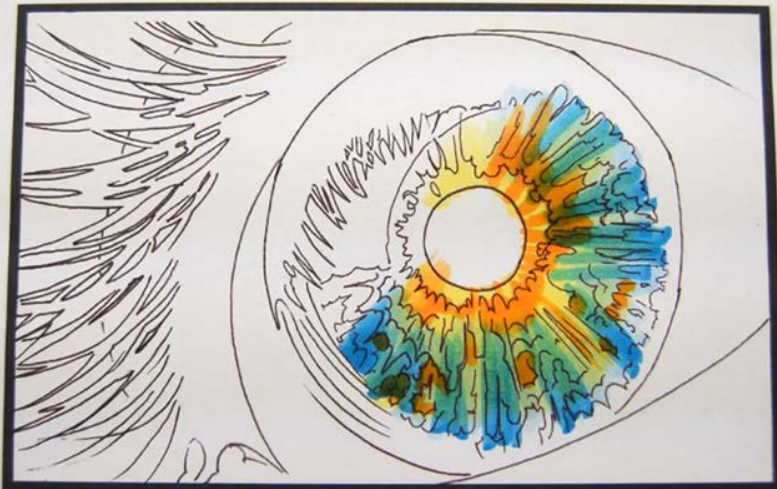
I begin by laying a clean, pure yellow Y11 over a large section of the iris. I color right over all the lines creating a bold color area with soft outer edges.



I layer in some B12, again keeping it simple with soft edges. Where the B12 overlaps the Y11 we get a nice, soft green.

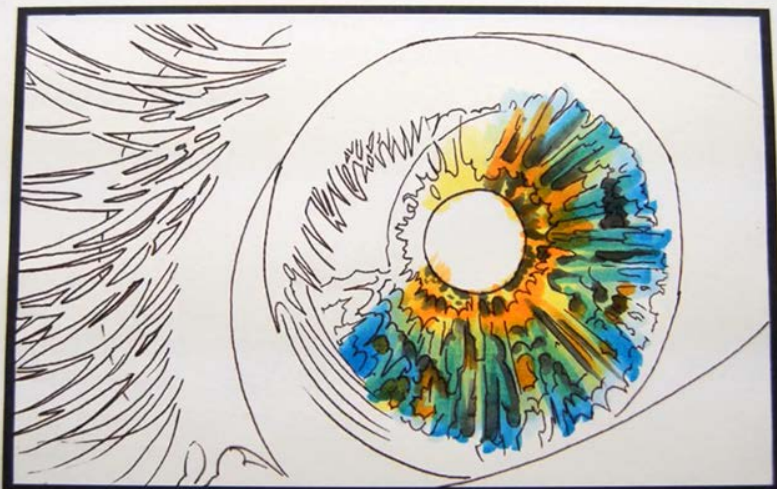


I add a more saturated darker blue, B05. I lay this color in big bold "stripes" using the "fat" side of the marker nib rather than the tip.



I add YR14 relatively randomly using the reference photo only as a loose guide.

Notice how the YR14 retains its color identity where it overlaps the Y11, but it goes a very dark olive green where it overlaps the blue. Keep this color bold and simple. Random is good!



I add very dark T5 accents. They are randomly placed but are largely confined along the black line work within the iris.



I add a nice pure B66 along the bottom edge...



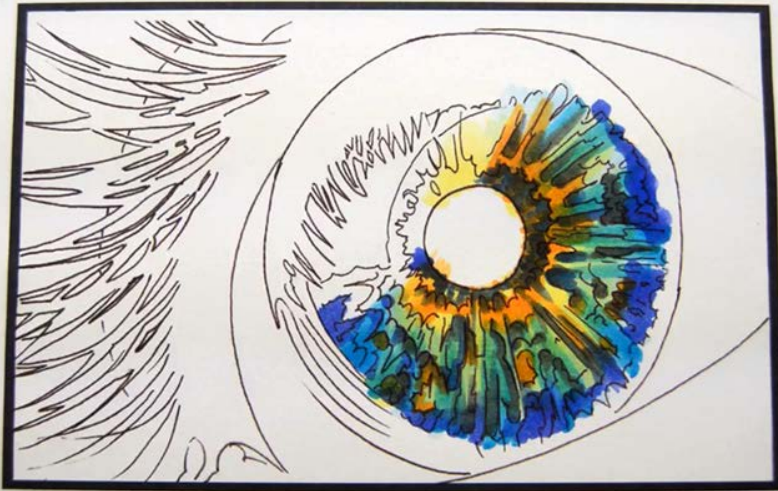
...then up and around... (B66)



...and then around the pupil.
(B66)

Again, notice how different this color looks when different colors are beneath it.

Keep it simple. Keep it random. Don't fuss over placing your colors and accents in exactly the places I have. Just get 'em in there and have fun!



Kinda looks like a hot mess!

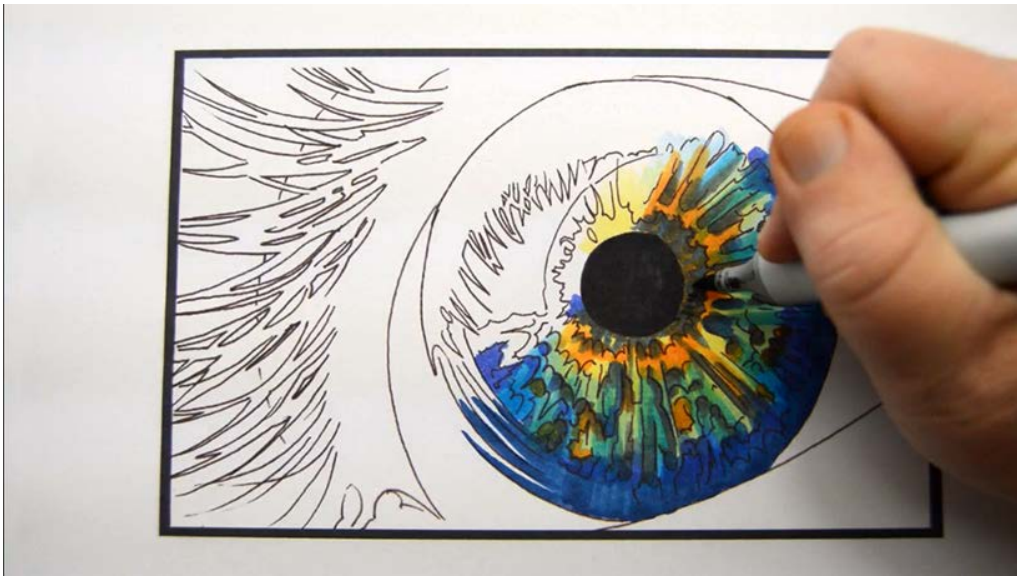
But it also looks three-dimensional so we will give it an A+ !



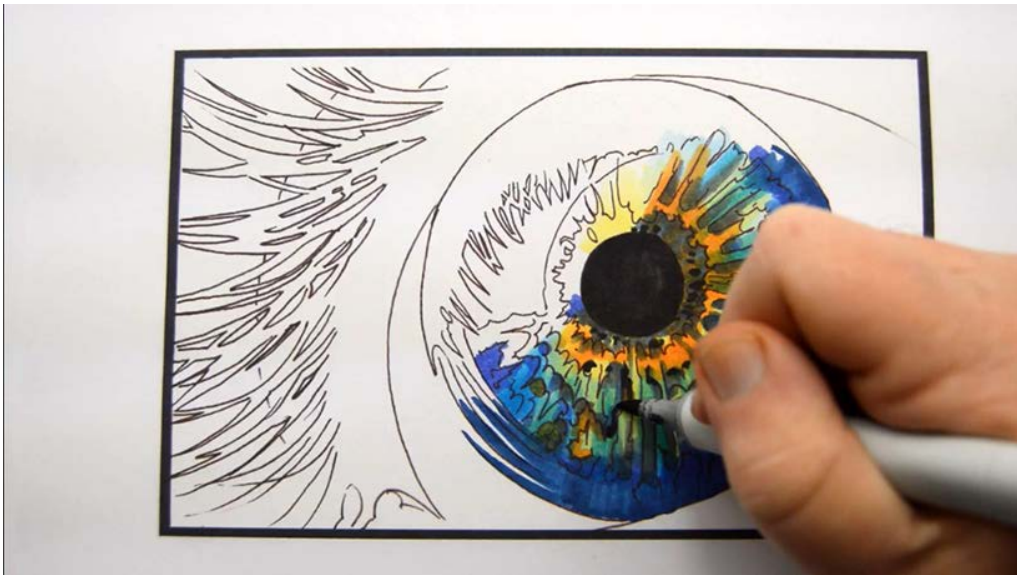
I add a dark but clean B37 to the bottom...



...and side of the iris... (B37)



...then I color the pupil with T9.



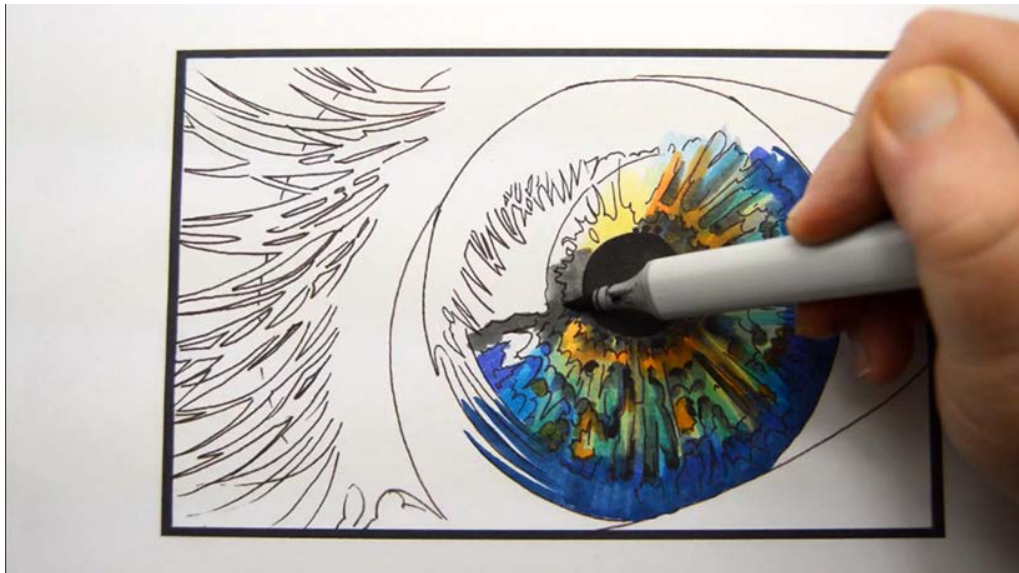
I add T9 accents here and there...



...and everywhere. (T9)



I add T4 to dull (desaturate) the colors in some areas. I lay this color in with big bold "stripes" again using the side of the marker nib.



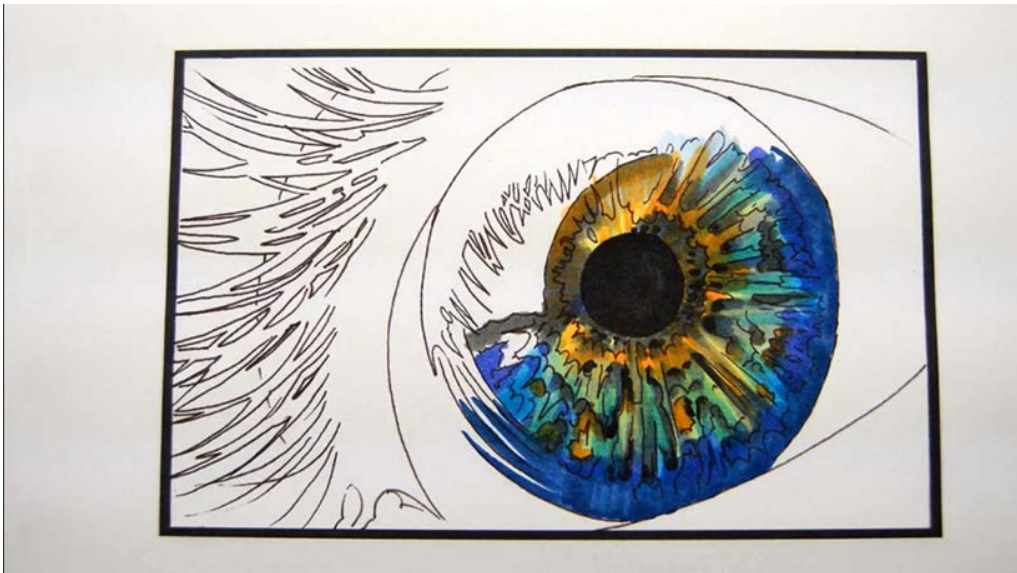
Continuing with the T4...



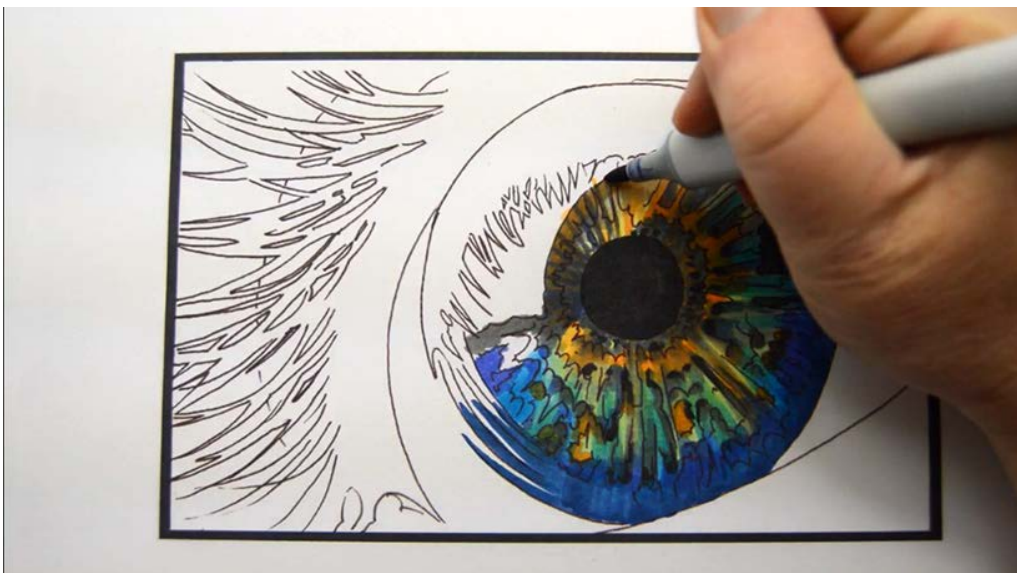
After the T4.



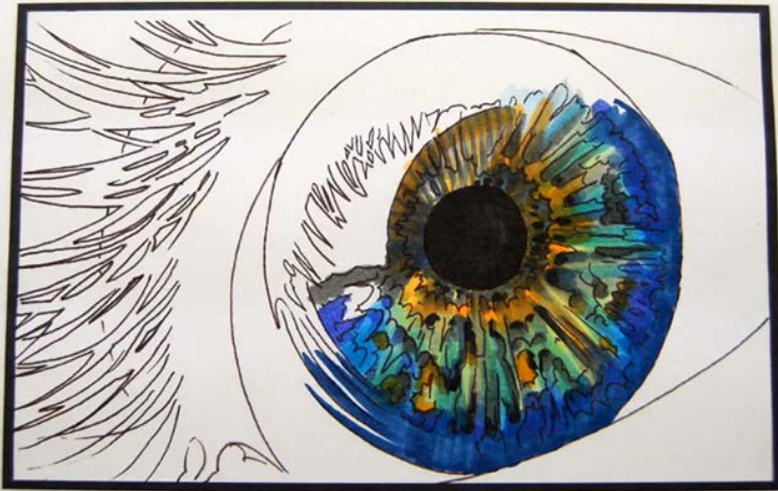
I add YR14.



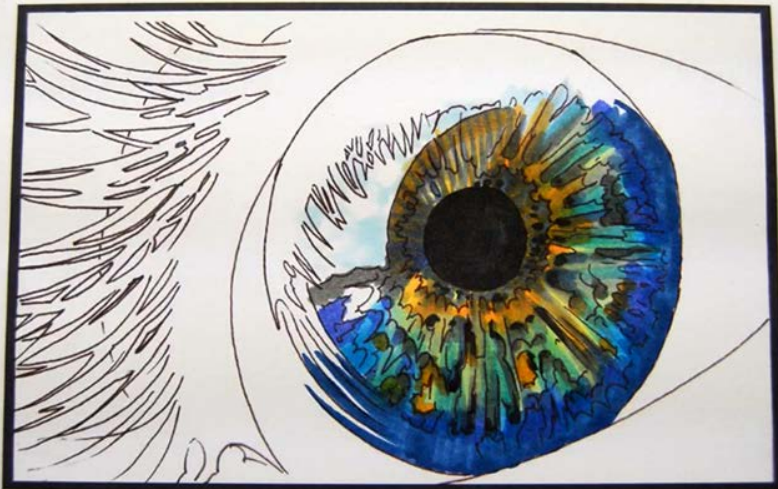
Notice how little "blending" there is. That's a good thing!



I add lines of B66...



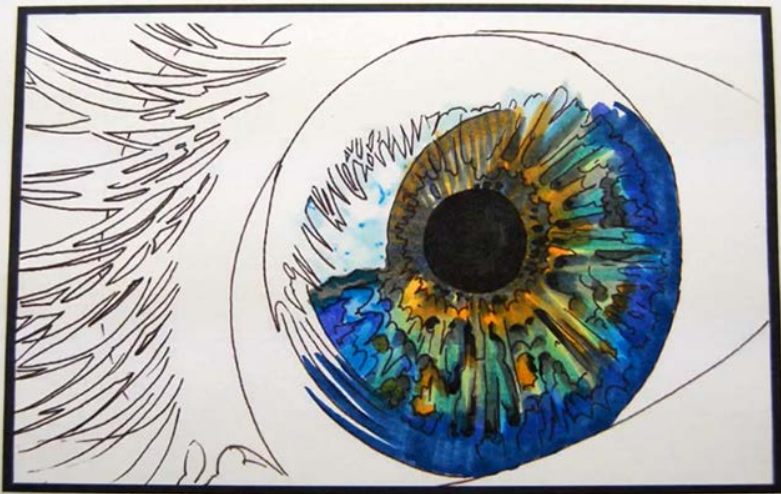
...simple, bold, and unblended.



I add a very light B00 to the reflection between the colors of the iris and the area that represents the reflection of the eyelashes.



To this same area I add a small accent of B12...



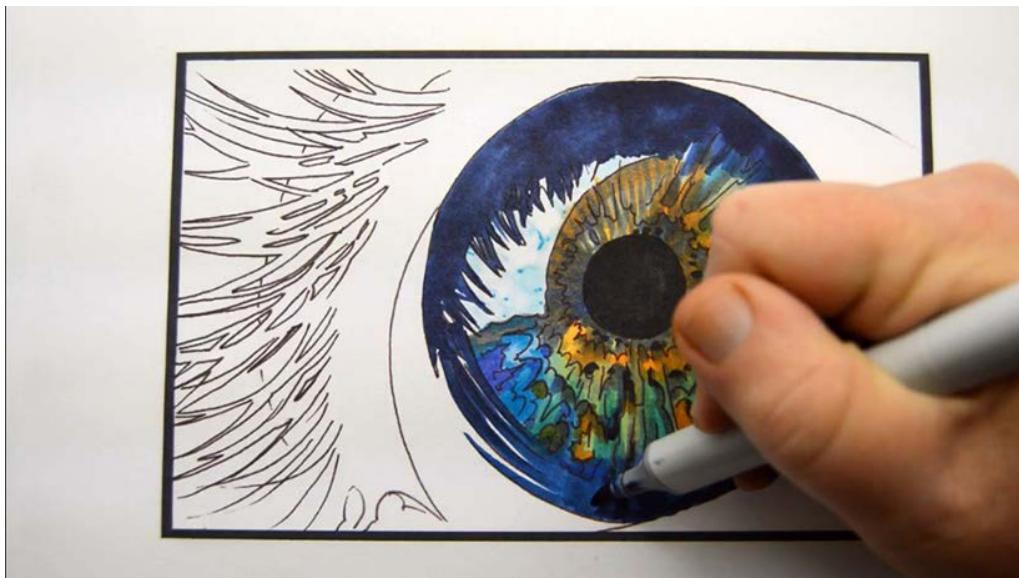
...and B05. No rhyme or reason here, just lay it in and leave it alone.



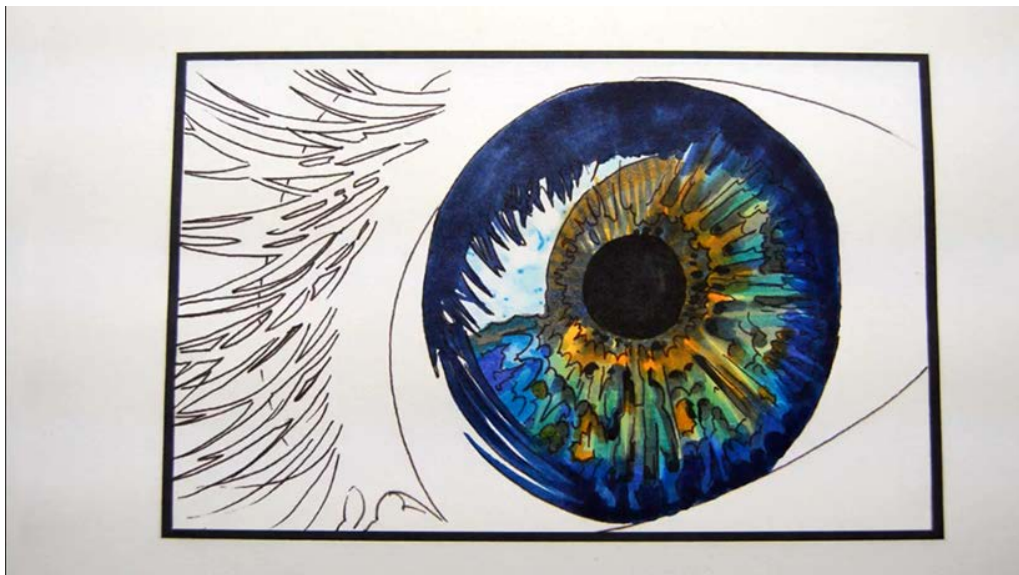
I add B39 to the reflection of the lashes...



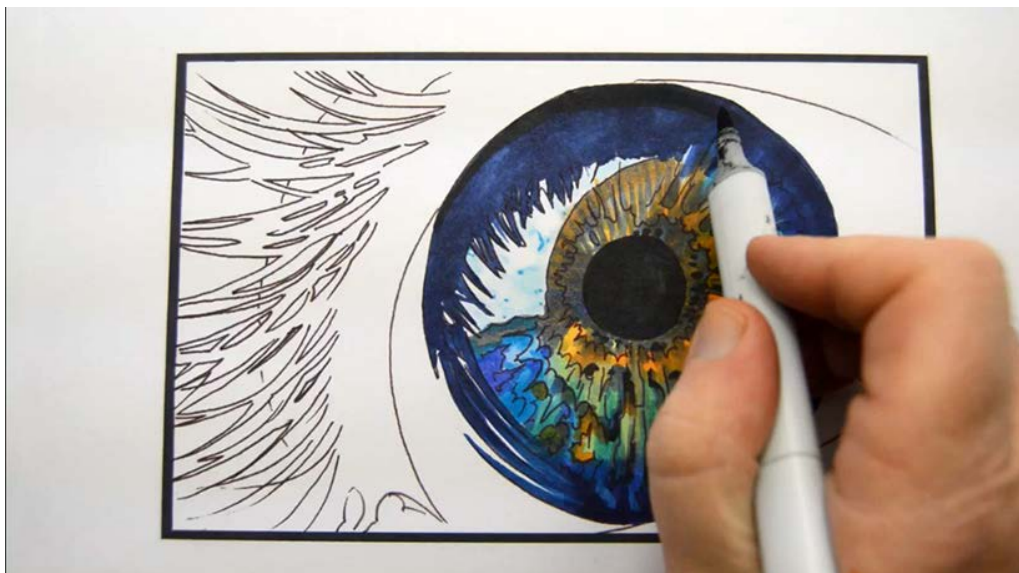
...up and around... (B39)



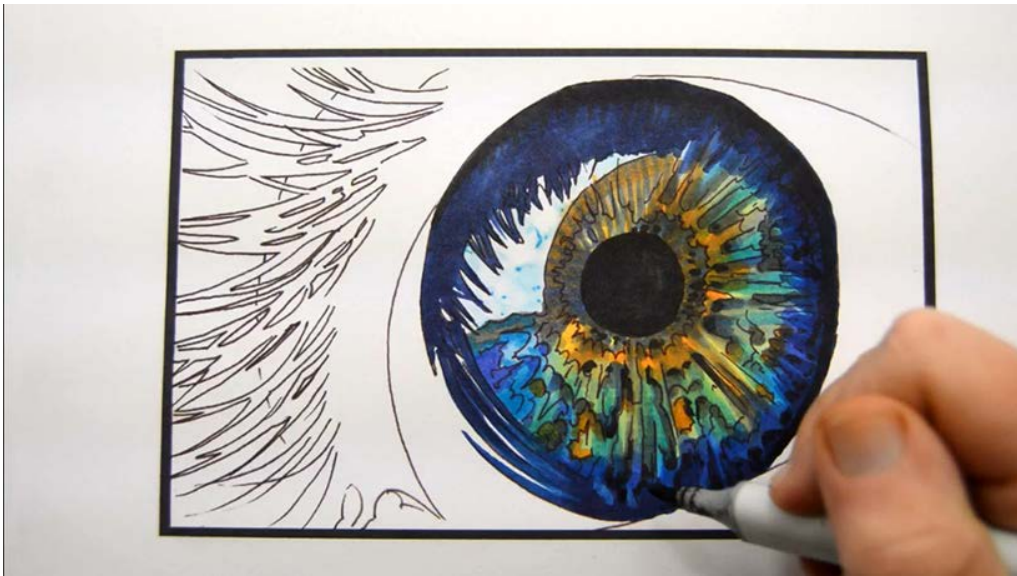
...and all the way down. (B39)



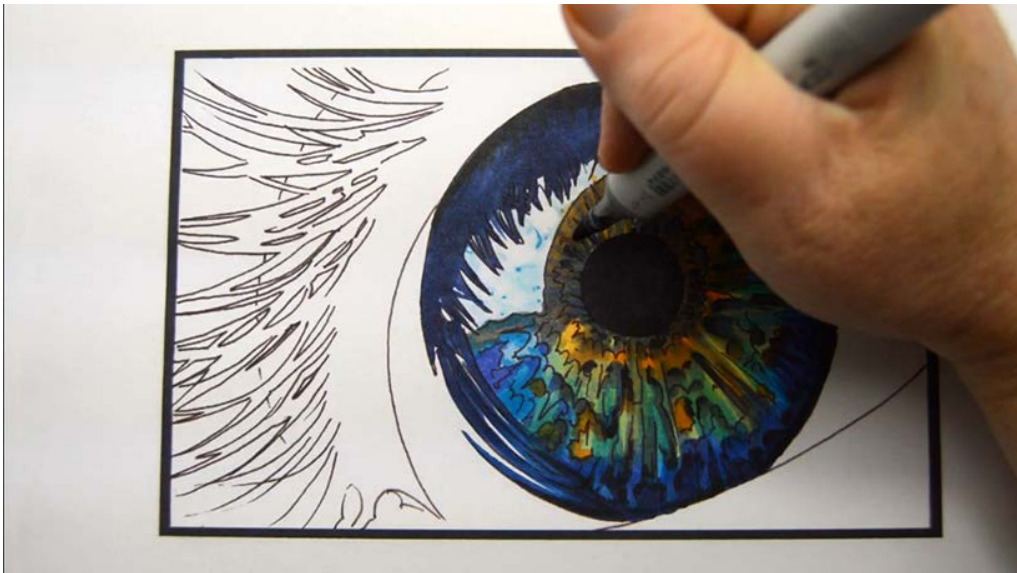
Notice how I've sorta followed the line work at the bottom. You can do that too if you like :)



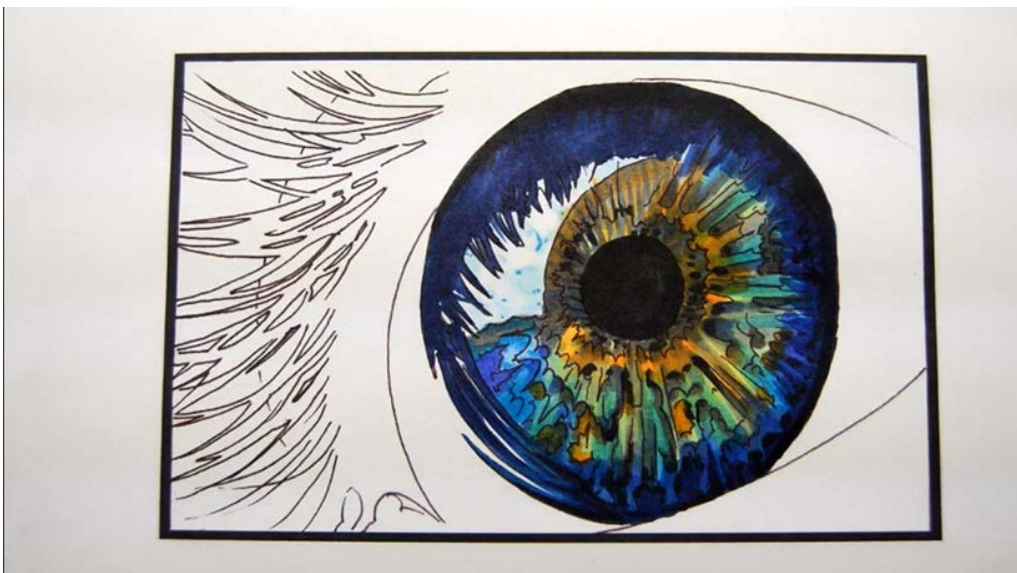
I add a dark "rim" of T8...



...T8...



...then use it to accent here and there... (T8)



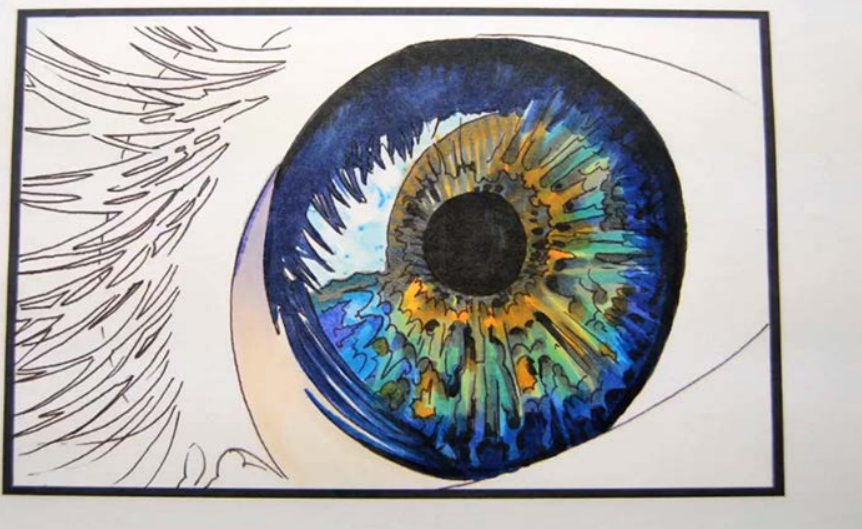
...and a little bit of everywhere. (T8)



I color the "white" of the eyeball with E000, laying it in evenly at the top and lightly at the bottom.



BV00 for the shadow...



...and a tiny touch of BV04 right along the line at the top.



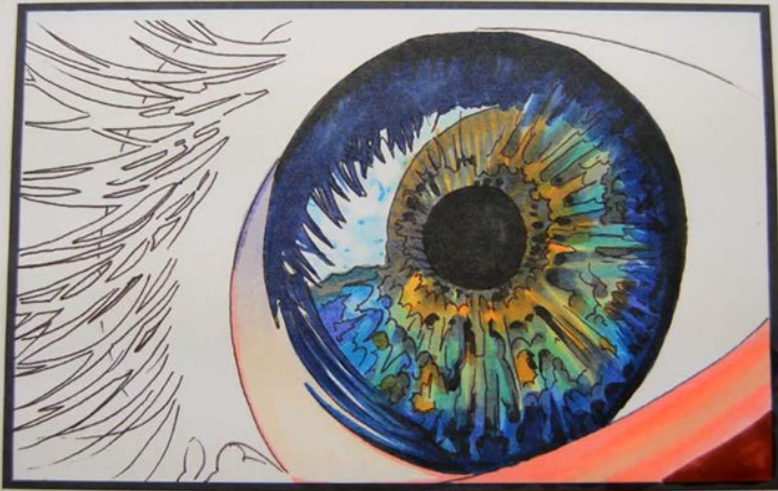
I add R43 along the bottom part of the line and at the bottom of the iris.



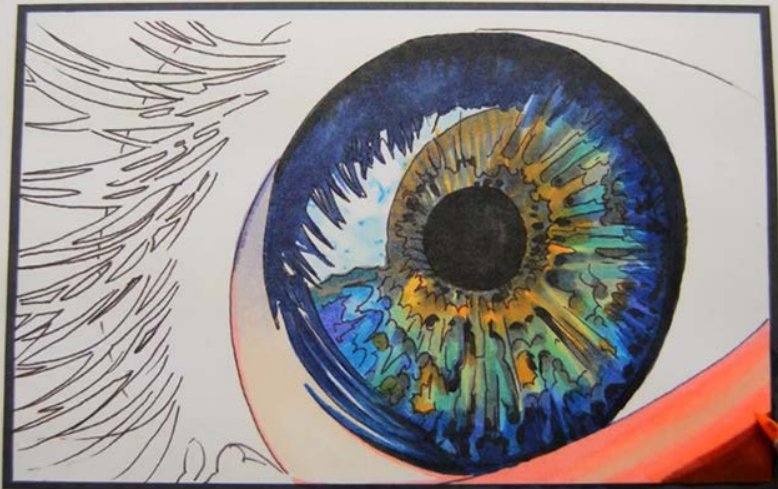
Continuing with the R43 I add color to the lower eyelid in big bold "stripes". Be sure to leave a little space like I have!



Then color in the "space" with R20.



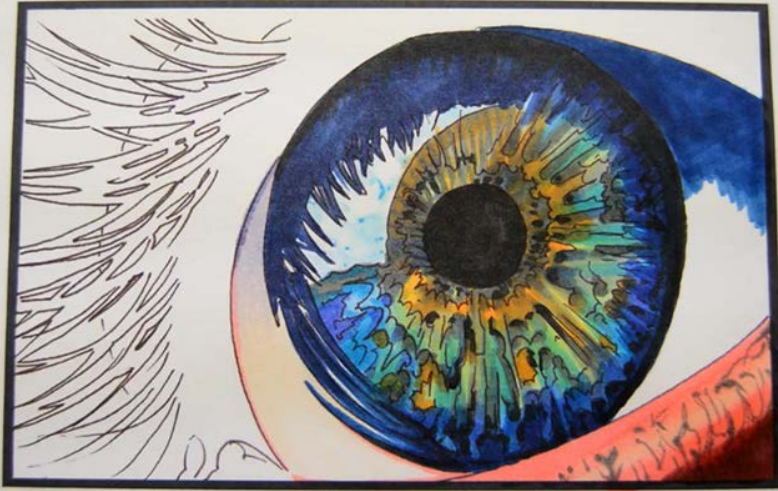
I add R89 to the bottom corner...



...then blend the edge just a bit with R43.



I add T5 "squiggles" to the rim of the eyelid. I honestly have no idea what the hell these are but they are in the reference photo and they look cool so in they go! Be random!



I color in a dark shadow shape of B37 on the upper portion of the shadow area on the eyeball.



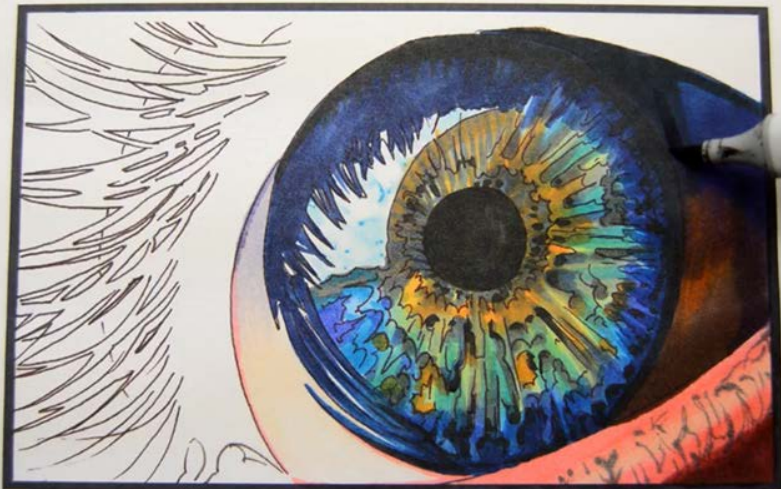
I add a color shape of V17 overlapping the edge of the B37.



I add YR14...



...then E77.



I then "glaze" the entire area with the E77. I'm using light pressure so I don't completely cover the colors underneath!



If I've said it once, I've said it a hundred times, the "whites" of the eyes are never white!

I'd like to point out (again) how rough, "abstract" and unblended everything is. Keep it that way! Don't overblend and it's gonna look awesome.

Chapter Two:

Coloring The Eyelids And Lashes





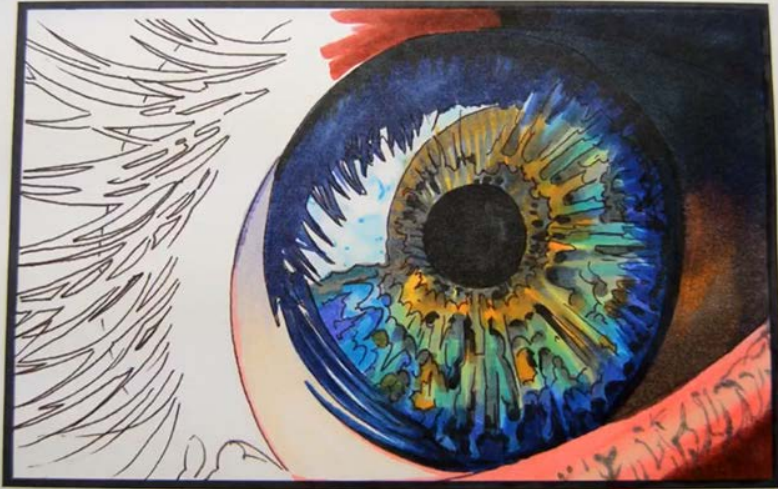
With our focal point established we can now work to finish off the image.



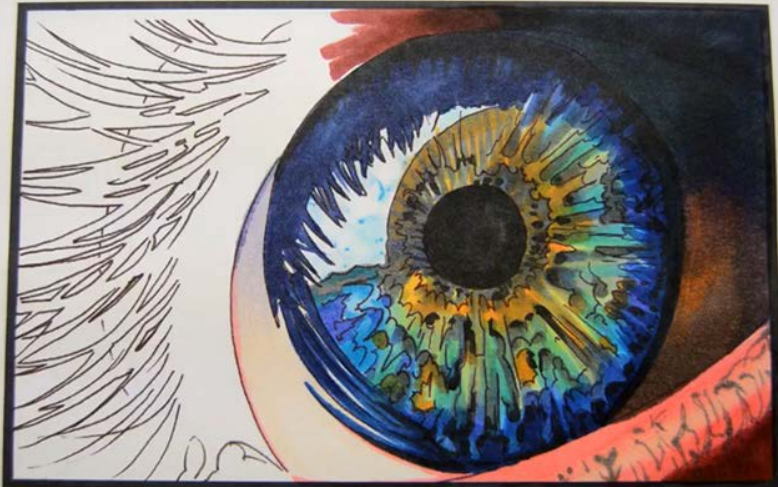
I add a very dark B39 to the upper right corner of the image.



I then darken it further with a glaze of E77.



I add R89...



...then "work" the transition with E77.



I add a great big, glorious shape of R27, coloring right over the lines of the lashes.

Note: For my colored pencil users - you can do this too! Color right over the lashes in all of the following steps and you'll be able to add black over the top just fine! I tested it and it's gonna be awesome :)



I add R89 along the edge of the eyeball...



...and to the transition between the original R89 shape at the top.



Notice how I've used the R89 to create big bold shapes in the larger R27 shape. You should do that too! But don't blend!



A little more R89 here...



Then I add a great big shape of YR16, again right over the lashes.



Next comes YR14. It's subtle but if you look closely you can see the slight color difference along the outside edge of the YR16.



I add Y11 big and bold, right up to that curvy line.



R89



R27



YR16

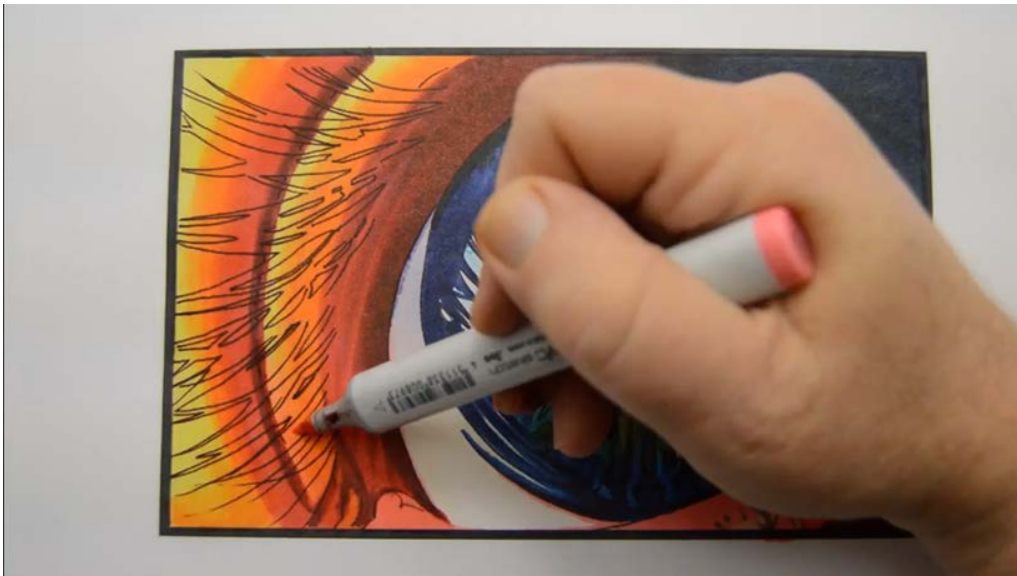


YR14

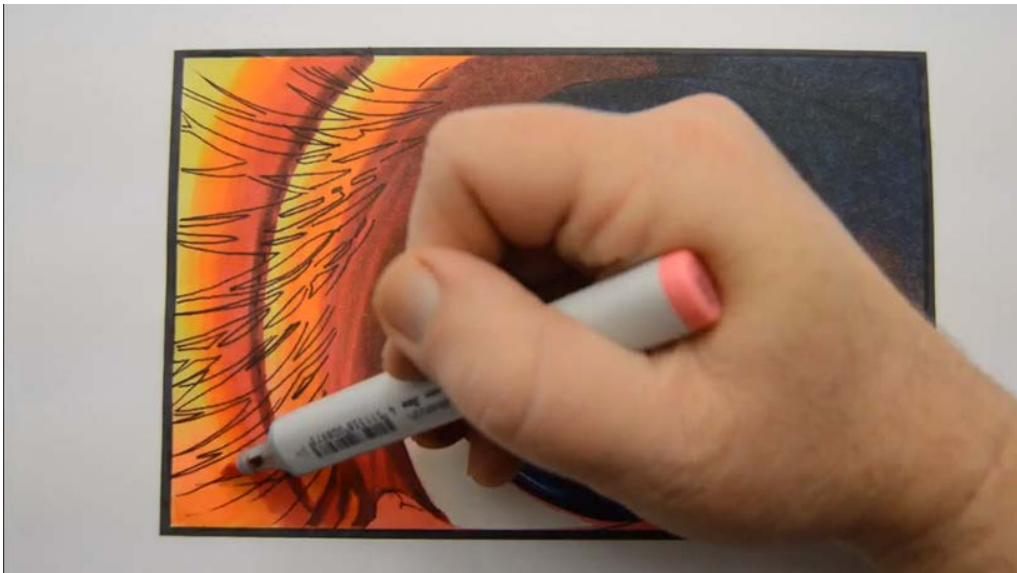


Y11

I know I know, it looks like a rainbow punched her in the eye! Take a deep breath. Everything will be ok. Trust the process. :)



I add R43 to the tear duct,
and then use it to soften up
the other colors just a bit.



R43



R43



R43



After the R43.



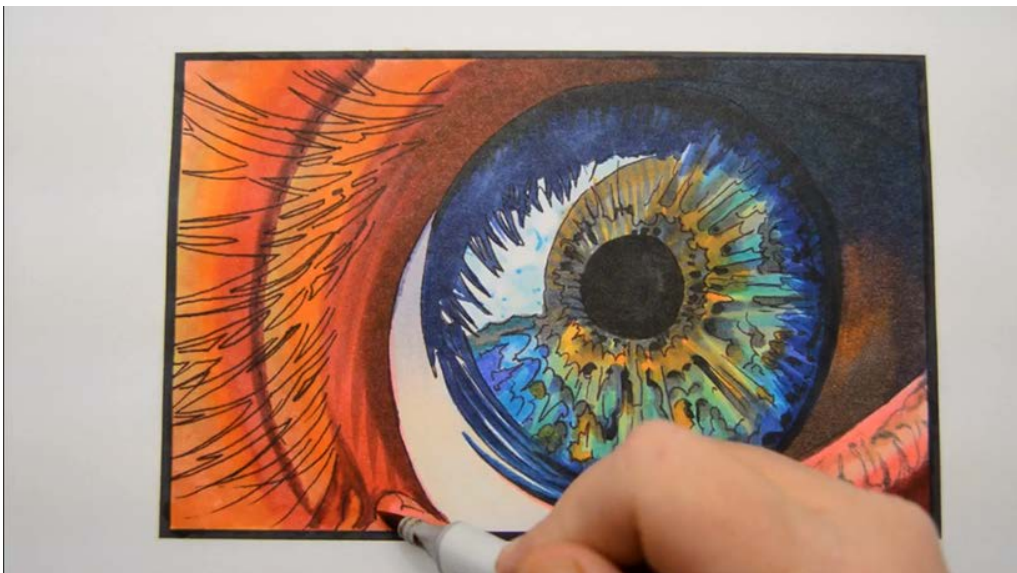
I desaturate the bright reds and oranges and yellows with a glaze layer of E13.



E13



I add another desaturation layer of E33 over the whole left side of the image...



...then add accents to the tear duct... (E33)



...and rim of the eyelid. (E33)
(Look close and you can see it.)



I mark in the eyelashes with T10,
big and bold...



...thick in the middle and thin on
the ends, right over all the other
colors.



I add an accent of E77 along the edge of the eyeball.



Ok... you've probably been up close with your nose to the paper this whole time, and at this point you may be asking yourself, "What the hell?!?"

Well, take 8 steps back and take a look at what you've done. Go ahead now... I'll wait.

Pretty awesome, huh? :)



I darkened the top portion of the pupil with T10.



I add E13 along the edge where the iris meets the sclera.



It's super subtle.



I add white gouache highlights to the rim of the eyelid...



...softening with my finger in some spots...



...and leaving it bold and unblended in others.



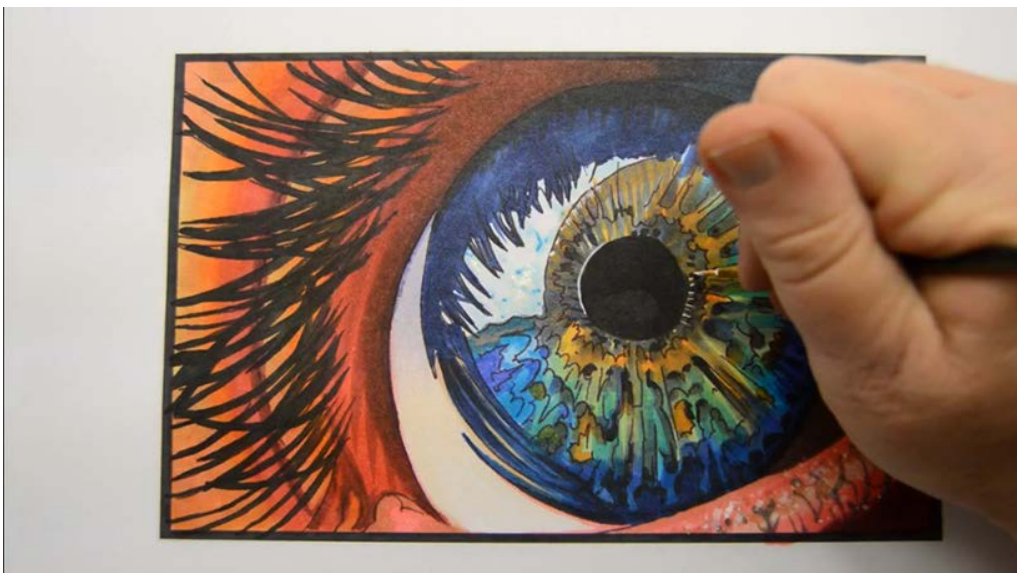
I redefine some of the shapes between the reflected lashes... (white gouache)



...then add highlights to the iris...



...and pupil.



White gouache



White gouache



White gouache



White gouache



White gouache



White gouache



In most cases I have a tendency to go overboard with my whites. In this image I don't think that's possible! Go crazy, have fun!



I add white gouache "dots" in the spaces between the lashes...



White gouache



White gouache



White gouache



I add white gouache to the lashes themselves. I do exercise a little restraint here.



That looks nice :)



White gouache



White gouache



Yep, that helps quite a bit!



I decide to darken the reflection of the lashes just a bit with T6...



...T6...



...to finish off the image.

The Finished Image



Take a step back and take a look... now look closer. What you have just created is an abstract collection of color shapes that when viewed from a slight distance looks like an astonishingly realistic eye! Simple, bold shapes are working together to fool the brain into seeing something realistic. And that my friends is what real art does.

Until next time...

Christopher Kerry