



Fire tools, 1500's

Florence, Italy



Benvenuto Cellini (1500-1571)







Perseus with head of Medusa







Bust of Cosimo I de' Medici





Shield for Francesco I de' Medici



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Saliera

Benvenuto Cellini

Kunsthistorisches  
Museum







## Silverpoint: Learning an Old Masters Technique

- With modern materials, silverpoint is an easy medium to try.
- Keep expectations in check – the value range is small, and tarnish won't necessarily improve the results!
- Light lines, cross hatching, following the curve of the form – these are all shading techniques well suited for silverpoint.
- Establish your darker areas first, but don't try to emulate graphite or charcoal in intensity. Build up layers slowly with cross hatching.
- Plan your moves – it will be difficult but not impossible to erase. However, once the ground has worn off, the silver will not adhere to your support.
- It's easy to prepare a number of surfaces quickly, so that you can use silverpoint outdoors and on the go. All you will need to take with you is a stylus and eraser.



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