Rocks in a landscape drawing can add interesting textures to the work. Including rocks in a landscape can lead to good contrast with softer textures such as grasses or water. Drawing realistic rocks with pastels requires the artist to pay close attention to shapes, values, and colors. Areas of strong contrast between values are common when observing rocks. Creating strong contrast of values will often lead to the illusion of texture and natural-looking rocks. Like with drawing any subject, the artist must concentrate on what is seen and attempt to mimic that information through marks made on the surface.
Begin by defining the background. In this example, a dark gray is established and worked into the surface using a finger.

Next, marks are made to mimic the texture of leaves using a yellow-green. Some areas of negative space should be left to help define the forms of the trees and plants.

A darker value of yellow-green is layered on top of the lighter yellow-green to create depth in the leaves. The illusion of form is furthered by adding yellow as well, which also begins to establish a light source.

A few layered applications of brown and a conservative application of black begin to create added contrast between the shapes of the trees and the negative areas around them.
Next, the location of the rocks in the upper portion of the image are determined by layering brown and gray pastel to make the basic shape of the rock formation. A light gray is used to define initial areas of highlight on the rocks.

Darker values on the rock shapes are defined using a combination of brown, blue, and black. Shaded areas are softened by layering blue over areas of black. Highlights on the rocks are strengthened by layering cream and white.

Areas of shadow on and around the rocks in the middle of the picture plane are observed. Shapes to represent these areas are defined using a dark gray pastel and are worked into the surface using a finger.

Light gray and cream are used to begin to differentiate individual rocks in the middle ground by layering directly over established areas of dark gray and brown.
The illusion of form on the rocks is created by creating contrast between the darker shadowed areas and the lighter areas of highlight. Browns, dark gray, blues, and light applications of black are used for the shadowed areas on and around the rocks.

Highlights are created using light gray, cream, yellow, and white. Some marks are allowed to “sit” on the surface without working or blending them in. This creates the illusion of texture and makes the highlights more realistic.

In contrast, many of the shadowed areas are worked or blended into the surface, creating smooth areas of shadow.

Blue and gray are layered over the darker areas to “tone down” the black, making it less intense and more natural. These colors are mixed in order to create softer shadows that still produce the required amount of contrast in value.
The process of creating the illusion of rocks is continued down the picture plane. By layering over previous applications, overlapping occurs, which results in the illusion of space in the image.

The rocks on the right side of the image begin to take shape. Brown is applied first and then layered over using light gray.

With the majority of the upper portion of the rocks complete, the attention can be placed on the water in the foreground. The first step is to define the area with a heavy application of yellow-green.

Colors are layered over the yellow-green to create the illusion of realism. Black is mixed around the edges of the water to create shadow. Browns and greens are worked in as well.
Next, the attention can be turned on the falling water. The illusion of falling water is created by pulling marks downward with a white pastel.

By creating a variety of marks and transparencies in the marks, the illusion of water in motion is achieved.

Areas of reflected color are added throughout the water at the bottom of the image. Small marks of white pastel are added to mimic ripples. These marks are lightly worked into the surface.

A few areas of reflected color are added to the water. In this case, the same colors used in the rock face are used in the water below it.
A white pastel pencil is used to add spots of highlight in a few places in the water. The pencil is also used to define an edge where the rocks meet the water and to define the trunk of the small tree on the right side of the image.

Yellow-green marks are made placed over the trunk of tree. These marks are made with loose strokes in an attempt to mimic groupings of leaves. Some areas of negative space should be left.

Blue is added to create areas of shadow in the leaves of the tree. Yellow is layered as well to create highlights on the leaves. The combination of these colors creates depth and furthers the illusion of form on the tree.

Areas within the drawing are revisited, if needed in order to complete the image.