

COSTA VAVAGIAKIS

"Drawing always played a prominent role in my life and remains an integral part of my process. I do countless drawings as I set out the concept for a painting; I also do highly realized drawings as ends in themselves. I draw from life—from direct observation and from experience. These drawings are a by-product of each experience, and the eventual concept of a painting is a synthesis of all of these drawing experiences. I do dozens of drawings of the same sitter; drawing is more than simply a preparatory tool. It is a way of becoming intimate with my sitter. I do drawing after drawing of very similar poses, exploring subtle

shifts of axis and mood in the model. I place the sitter against a white wall and illuminate him or her with a light from above, to accentuate the volumetric dimensionality of the form. I want the viewer to have the sensation of encountering a real person. Sometimes when drawing from a model in graphite or chalk I respond to the color that I see and turn to colored pencils to continue the drawings. These drawing are some examples of this process."

BELOW Costa Vavagiakis, *Connie XVI*, colored pencil, 15" × 19½" (38 × 48 cm)

OPPOSITE Costa Vavagiakis, *Connie XXIII*, colored pencil, 14" × 14½" (35.5 × 37 cm)

