Alstroemeria

Liliaceae Family, Peruvian Lily

These are beautiful, happy, very graceful flowers.

"Make friends with your plant"- Do a dissection of one flower. Study the shape and size of the petals, the little notches, the points, how they connect to the ovary. Count petals and check how they overlap. Notice that the Alstroemeria like the Iris have six 'tepals', two sets of three- the second thinner tepals often being spotted. Most of the flowers in the Lily family have a cone shape.

- Warm up by drawing some simple cone shapes.
- Do your drawing on tracing paper so you can correct it and erase. You can trace it on to good paper later
- Start by sketching and then refine your drawing style.
- * Keep your hand light.
- Get the angle of your flower head (the stem usually bends down from the ovary in back.
- Draw a simple cone shape (if that helps) and start laying in your petals, working from your knowledge of their shape and size.
- Check angles, and look at negative spaces. Look at relationships between petals.
- * Drawing the center of each petal may help to laying them in.
- Look carefully at the ovary which is below the tepals (inferior ovary .) It is quite interesting and beautiful and important.
- Check leaf and stem connections.
- Draw the center vein of the leaf. Then follow each of the edges. Finally find the "soft" edge where the leaf bends.
- ❖ Do color studies of the two different tepals.
- * Really, really look at your flower and find a view that you like. Try doing three views of the flower or plant-front, side and back.

"A subject should not go into your eyes and immediately go out through your hand. It needs to come in through your eyes into your soul and only then out through your hand. The emotional attachment creates a difference in a drawing obvious to anyone viewing it. "... Katie Lee, Fundamental Graphite Techniques.

