

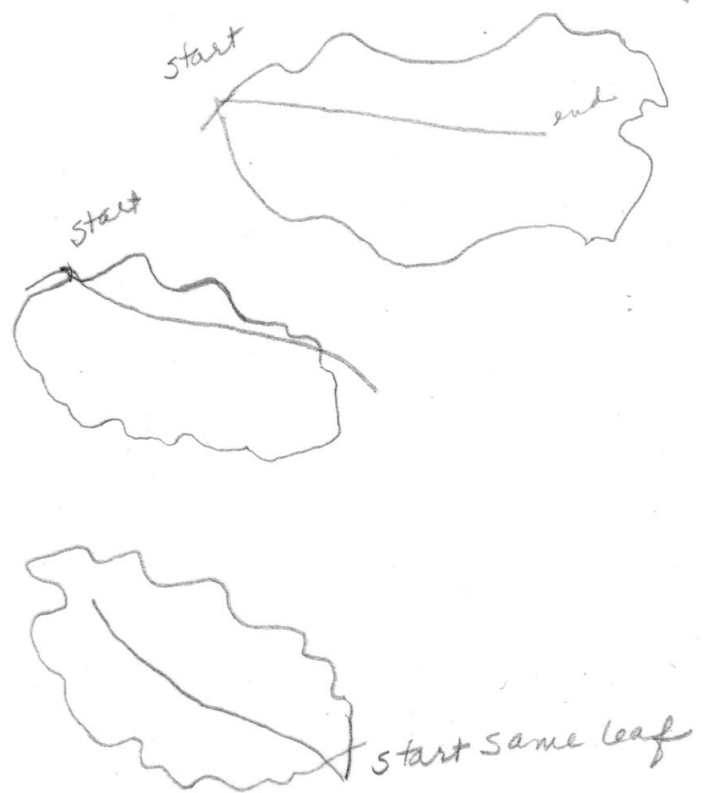
# Contour Drawing

Contour drawing is another way that we can free ourselves from listening to our brains describe and object and training our eyes to see the subject.

From Wikipedia, “**Blind contour drawing** is a drawing exercise, where an artist draws the contour of a subject without looking at the paper. The artistic technique was introduced by Kimon Nicolaïdes in *The Natural Way to Draw*, and it is further popularized by Betty Edwards as "pure contour drawing" in *The New Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain*.”

The idea is to look at an object and without looking down at your paper, very slowly follow the contour of the object with your eyes and your pencil. The very slowly is important. Pretend that you are touching or tracing the edge of the object with your hand. There are differing ideas of why this could be helpful to your drawing. I think it helps you to slow down and concentrate on what you are looking at and encourages a new way of seeing.

- ❖ Try doing a contour drawing of one or two silk tassel leaves. (*Garrya* sp.)
- ❖ Depending on where you start see if you can include the center vein.
- ❖ Next draw the leaf or leaves as you normally would.
  - Remember to start with the center vein.
  - Measure length and width.



Did the contour drawing help?

*“The first function of an art student is to observe, to study nature.”*

– Kimon Nicolaïdes, *The Natural Way to Draw*

