

# Drawing Overlaps



Drawing overlaps comes up often whether we are drawing leaves or flower petals. What happens with overlaps is that where the object (leaf or petal) curve toward us (or away), a “soft edge” is created. In other words we see it as a part of the petal but to take that three dimensional form and make it two dimensional on our paper we have to draw that curve as an edge, i.e. a line.

(When coloring that “edge” it is important to remember that it is a soft curve and should be shaded as such.)

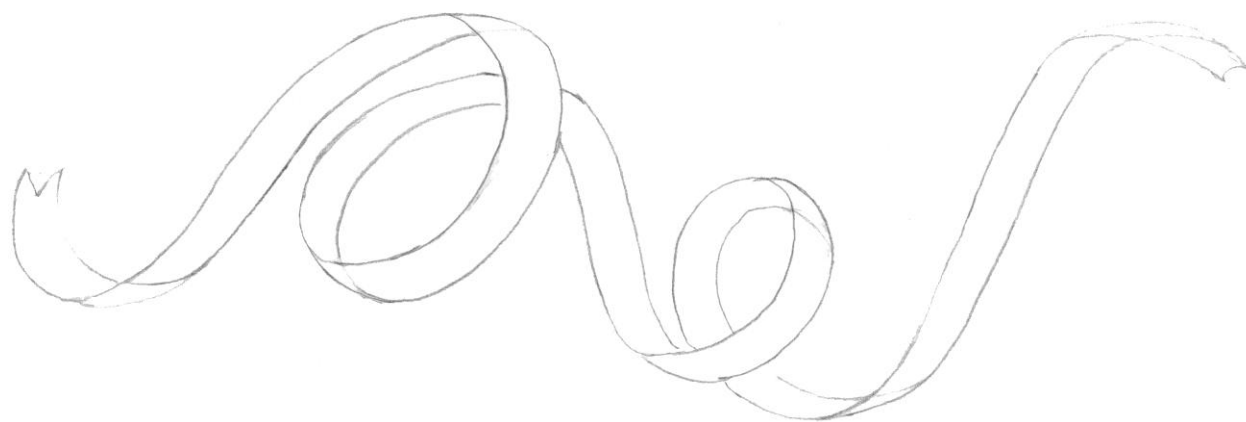
Always follow the lines of what you are drawing (close one eye to flatten what you see if that helps.) Use your pencil to see

what direction the edges go. Draw what you see not what you know.

Practice drawing leaves twisting on your drawing paper-

- ❖ Draw center vein of leaf
- ❖ Draw the side of the leaf closest to you.
- ❖ Draw the other side of the leaf.
- ❖ Erase the extra lines and smooth out the “soft edge”
- ❖ Notice that you can make these leaves face the opposite way depending on which side you erase.

Try drawing or tracing the rose petal or a curving ribbon to get the feeling of how overlaps work. Play later with shading these shapes.



“I firmly believe that everyone can learn how to draw –if they want to...”

The first step is to simply have a go.”...Sarah Simblet, Botany for the Artist