



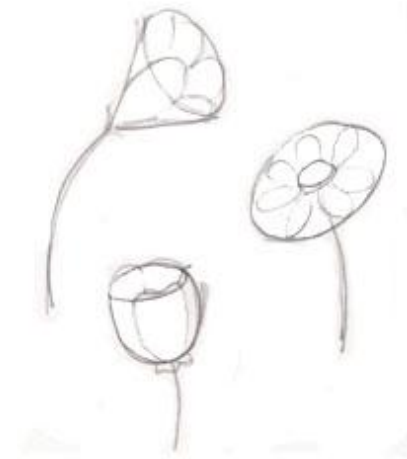
## Drawing a Flower

*Make friends with your flower. How are you going to explain it to others? Be a scientist and an artist. Create a study sheet with all the information you need to complete a portrait of your flower. Do some research on your flower. Count petals and sepals. Understanding your flower will help you draw it. Smell it. Feel it.*

**Gesture Drawing-** Quickly and loosely try to capture the gesture and shape of the flower. Allow yourself to be free. Cissy Freeman calls it “low-risk” drawing. Do more than one of these. This helps to loosen up but may also change how you look at the flower. Find the rhythm of the flower.

### Geometric Drawing-

- ❖ Do more than one view- Front, Back and Side
- ❖ Use **simple shapes** to help outline and block in the flower or object. Most flowers will fit into some common shapes- cup or cone or cylinder.
- ❖ Get the **angle** or pose of the flower.
- ❖ Start at the **center**. Everything meets in the center of the flower. **Measure** from there to edge of petals. Check proportions and relationships. **Measure everything**.
- ❖ Look at the **angles** from tip of one petal to tip of the next petal.
- ❖ Make sure your petals connect to the center. Measure petal length and width but be aware of **foreshortening** (petals that come toward you or away from you will look shorter than they actually are. *Draw what you see not what you know.*
- ❖ Look at the **negative spaces** between petals or leaves. Look at where one petal touches another.
- ❖ Start out loosely getting the gesture while still carefully observing.
- ❖ **Keep refining** your drawing while still retaining the energy of the flower.
- ❖ Check and draw leaf and stem connections, venation of the leaf and the shape of the stem.
- ❖ Do petal and leaf studies to help establish color.



*“Flowers changed the face of the planet. Without them, the world we know –even man himself–would never have existed.”* Loren Eiseley, *The Immense Journey*