



Forms in Nature- Creating Roundness

Practice drawing some simple flower and leaf forms.

Shade them in graphite to create dimension and form. Work with a consistent light source (usually left hand light.) Train your eye to see the values in nature, the lights and darks.

What we are looking for are the subtle gradations of light.

In graphite we usually darken our object by adding more graphite or pressing harder.

How do we do this in colored pencil?

- ❖ Choose a pencil that darker than your **local** color. (Local color is the color of your object.)
 - Use an analogous dark- in the same color range (e.g. red for pink, dark green for sap)
 - Use a medium neutral pencil like a medium gray or Faber-Castell #165 Dark Sepia
 - Use a complementary color (red in a green leaf.)
- ❖ Test that color with the pencils you have chosen to be your local color. That means blend these pencils together and see if they work well together.
- ❖ Experiment with laying down the colors you choose working from light to dark or dark to light. Sometimes we like to start dark so that we create form first. This is not a rule but one method of working. The choice is yours and may differ from subject to subject. Sometimes we “sandwich” our dark in between layers of color.
- ❖ Some rules about using colored pencils:
 - Names do not mean very much. Indigo (FC) is not Indigo (P) is not Indigo (CD) nor is Dark Sepia the same in different brands. FC Magenta is very different from Prismacolor Magenta!
 - Make charts of your pencils and consult them. Learn what your pencils can do for you.
 - Simplify your palette. Don't carry around pencils you do not use. (Greens in particular!)

“... drawing depends, primarily, on your power of representing Roundness. If you can once do that, all the rest is easy and straightforward...For Nature is all made up of roundnesses...boughs are rounded, leaves are rounded, stones are rounded, clouds are rounded, cheeks are rounded, and curls are rounded. The world itself is round, and so is all that is in it...” John Ruskin, The Elements of Drawing