



Perspective and Foreshortening

Perspective is a technique for drawing a three dimensional object on a two dimensional piece of paper.

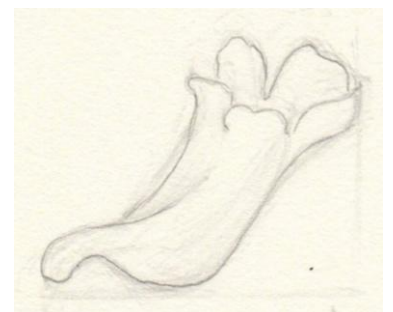
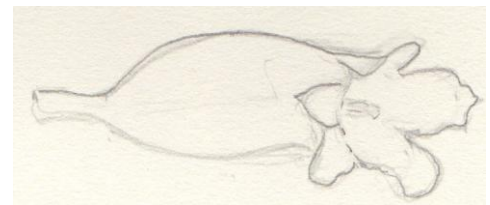
Foreshortening is a method of showing perspective by shortening the object. As we tilt flower toward or away from us the petals of the flower appear shorter or sometimes longer. We must draw what we see- shorter petals- not what we know and then the flower will look three dimensional.

Doing multiple views of the same subject can help us to understand perspective and foreshortening.

It is also helpful in drawing a flower like the foxglove and agapanthus with many florets facing in different directions. Multiple flowers can seem overwhelming but are much easier once we understand how to draw them.

Work on a tubular flower like the Foxglove to get the sense of perspective.

- ❖ Lay the flower on you table horizontally so you can see the full length of the flower. Measure it and then proceed to draw it.
- ❖ Now turn the flower at a 45 degree angle pointing away from you- this can be either from the front or back.
- ❖ Measure again. Remember you must measure against a flat plane. Get as close to the flower as you can but keep your ruler or divider on the horizontal plane. Do not lean into the flower.
- ❖ Mark that measurement (it should be shorter than your first measurement) and proceed with your drawing.
- ❖ Use your pencil to check angles.
- ❖ Do another view and another.



"Drawing is the honesty of the art. There is no possibility of cheating. It is either good or bad." ...Salvador Dali

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Drawing Nature