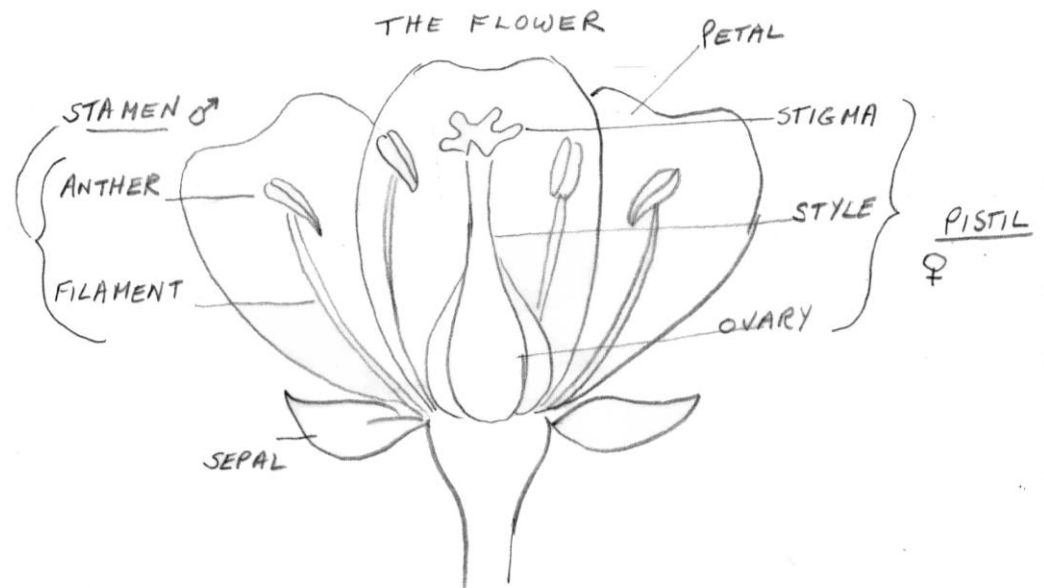


# The Flower

Ruskin says, "I would rather teach drawing that my pupils may learn to love nature, than teach the looking at nature that they may learn to draw."



Dissecting a flower can be one of the most exciting things you do in botanical

art. The different parts of different flowers are amazing to behold. It is also essential for us as botanical illustrators to understand the structure of the flower. By knowing the parts we are able to better tell the story of the flower. We want and need to know how the flower works.

The simple botany- a basic flower has four parts on the **receptacle**- the swollen part of the stem:

The **sepals** surround and often protect the flower. We call that part of the flower the **Calyx**.

The **petals** are usually colorful and often marked to attract insects. They are the **Corolla**.

If the sepals and petals have evolved to look alike (like Tulips or Alstromeria, we call them **Tepals**).

The **male** parts are the **stamen**. They are composed of an **anther** which produces the **pollen** and a **filament**.

The anthers attach to the filament in various ways. Always check them out before you draw them.

The **female** part of the flower is the **pistil**, composed of **stigma** (think sticky), the top part which receives the pollen, **style** the longer part that attaches to the **ovary**.

A simple pistil is also called a **carpel**. In pollination, when the pollen germinates it sends a tube down the style to the ovary to fertilize the ovum. The ovary then develops into a **fruit**. Ovaries that are above the petals are called superior (Oriental poppy). Ones that are below the petals as in the rose are called inferior. The ways that the fruit present themselves to us are myriad, Nuts, seed, peas, capsules, what we call fruit.

Look at the beautiful illustrations of Arthur Harry Church and Maud Purdy and then look at your own flowers and draw them. Refer to Sarah Simblet's Botany for the Artist and Anne Ophelia Dowden's, The Clover and the Bee and From Flower to Fruit.

