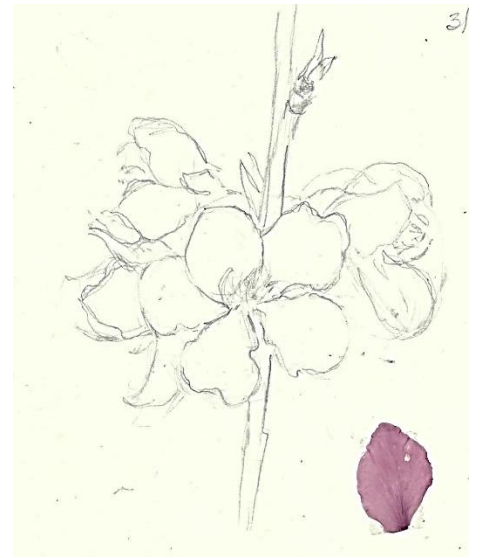


Journaling the Garden

Take one flower from your garden or on your walk this week and really study it. Draw it 3 or 4 ways:

- ❖ Do a graphite study
- ❖ Draw it in pen and ink
- ❖ Do it in color- colored pencil or watercolor
- ❖ Try an underpainting
- ❖ Dissect it.



Just study it! Look at the leaves. Give them their due. Take a day outside and draw the flower “in situ.” Learn how it grows. Let this be experimentation for you and a time to try out different media.

Alternatively, take a two-page spread in your sketchbook or a large piece of paper and document what is going on this week in your journal. Forget about the “perpetual journals” for a while and make your own. For some of you I know there is a lot going on right now in the garden. How lovely it would be to see it all on one page.

A flower a day or every other day or a week. If you do not have much of a garden, then collect something each day on your walk. Maybe just a series of leaves, wild flowers on the side of the road, a twig, whatever speaks to you that day.

For those of you already doing a project like the Mt. Tam florilegium, try a sketch a day of your plant or a layout every day of how you want to present it. This is a time for diaries. What could be better than a nature diary? Save room for a bird or two!

“Why stay we on earth unless to grow?” ... Robert Browning