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Drawing a Leaf- Working with Greens

Drawing a leaf:

- ❖ Measure the length – you can even lay it down on your paper and make marks for this exercise.
- ❖ Draw the center vein.
- ❖ Measure its width- make marks where it gets wider and narrower
- ❖ Add the secondary veins-
 - o Look at the back of the leaf and/or do a leaf rubbing with tracing paper.
 - o With all the veins, lay your pencil straight against them to see how they bend.
 - o Veins often change direction slightly at the intersection of another vein.
- ❖ Check the outer edge. Is it smooth or serrated? Look at what the serrations do.
- ❖ You can use this same formula to draw a tree!
- ❖ Draw several leaves from your garden or your walk and practice coloring them.
- ❖ Here is a short list of “convenient” greens. Experiment with other greens you may have. Try your watercolor green FC#167, if you have one, for an underpainting.
 - o Start in the darkest area, often on one or both sides of a vein.
 - o Layer each succeeding color on top of the first. Try different mixes in each leaf segment.
 - o Leave white paper for highlights.
- ❖ Study your favorite artists’ leaves and see what you can learn from a master.

FC# 168 Earth Green Yellowish			
FC #167 Permanent. Green Olive			Prismacolor Olive
FC #174 Chromium Green Opaque			
FC #278 Chrome Oxide Green			Prismacolor Dark Green
FC #172 Earth Green			Prismacolor Celadon
			Mix P. Indigo Blue and Canary Yellow

“The purpose of the universe is play. The artists know this, and they know that play and art and creation are different names for the same thing -a thing which is sweats and agonies and ecstasies”. Don Marquis