

Leaves in Perspective

Whether you are drawing fruit or flower this summer you usually must deal with drawing the leaves that accompany them, in perspective, which simply means as they are growing, not flat on the page.

- ❖ The first thing you need to observe if you are identifying or drawing a plant is the leaf arrangement. Once you establish that it will make the drawing simpler.
 - Opposite leaves are paired, one on either side of the stem like the mint family.
 - Alternate (most common) appear one at a time on alternate sides of the stem.
 - Others are in whorls or perfoliate (enclosing) the stem.
- ❖ Now you can draw the stem and start connecting the leaves.
 - Remember to look closely at the connections. Each plant does this differently and often it is the most interesting part of the stem.
 - Remember that stems often change direction at the connections.
- ❖ Measure using your pencil or ruler. Always hold your pencil straight up and down. Do not lean in to measure. Compare your measurement of one leaf to another.
- ❖ Look at negative space. It often helps to draw the space between complicated objects. Look at Maria Sibylla Merian's Apricot branch. The negative spaces are as beautiful as the fruit and leaves. Remember the artist has the ability to create those spaces.
- ❖ Look at relationships:
 - Who overlaps who?
 - Who is longer?
 - Who is closer? Who is further away?



"The invariable mark of wisdom is to see the miraculous in the common" ... Ralph Waldo Emerson