



Working with Peppers, Foreshortening and Shine

Two important things to think about when draw a pepper or any fruit or vegetable that is not round (eggplant, banana, cucumber) is foreshortening.

As we turn the pepper away from us or toward us, it appears shorter. So, do careful measuring.

- ❖ Position your pepper so the stem so you can see its whole length. Put it on a box or books so it is close to eye level.
- ❖ Measure the length.
- ❖ Now tilt it away from you. Measure the length again as if there were a piece of glass between you and the pepper. Do not lean into it.
- ❖ That measurement should be shorter.
- ❖ Note the angles of the sides of the pepper.



Peppers are generally very shiny and there are two basic ways we show shine:

- ❖ We leave almost white highlights in somewhat darker areas. Set yourself up with good left-hand light (or right if you are left-handed.) Draw in your highlight larger than it is. As you are coloring, gently soften the edges of your highlights with one of the lighter colors in your mix. Try to really draw the shapes you see.
- ❖ We burnish, shine the paper by building up color. This is not as important as putting in highlights. There are good examples of peppers that are not burnished but you may not like seeing the texture of the paper. This is a more personal choice.
- ❖ In both working with the highlights and darkening and burnishing we are trying to achieve that very careful gradation of tone.

“You don’t have to draw everything you know, but you should know everything you draw.”

... John Muir Laws.

