

Autumn Leaves Color Play

We will start with some three minute leaf drawing so you will have several leaves to work with.

- ❖ Start with the main stem.
- ❖ Add the other main veins.
- ❖ Carefully add the outline, checking the angles of the secondary veins. Do not worry about serrations now. You can add them with color.

- ❖ Start one or more of your leaves with an “under-painting.” Look at the back of your leaf for hints on the under-painting color and try out your watercolor pencils.
- ❖ **Experiment** with your pencils to see what they can do.
 - Try blending two or more dry colors and then wetting them.
 - **Wet into wet-** You can color one end of your leaf and then carefully wet the other so that when you begin to dissolve your colored end the paint flows into the wet part.
 - Take color directly from the pencil by using a wet brush on the tip of the pencil.
 - Try some bright weird colors to jazz up your leaf. What Elaine Searle calls “hidden bright.”
 - Wait until your watercolor is completely dry to add color.
- ❖ You can do similar experiments combining pan pastels or use alcohol marking pens. Both dry immediately.
- ❖ Once your underpainting is dry, try the color formulas we used for acorns and pods and start creating the colors in your leaves.
- ❖ Look for ways and places to find and add interesting colors to give your leaves life.

“How much of beauty—of color, as well as form—on which our eyes daily rest goes unperceived by us!... Henry David Thoreau



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