



Refining your leaf drawing

After you do your three-minute leaf drawing, take the time to refine one of your leaves before going straight to color:

- ❖ Add the primary veins. Carefully check their direction which will help refine the outside edge of the leaf.
- ❖ Check the size of your leaf, especially between the center vein and the edges.
- ❖ Look for twists and turns if your leaf is getting crispy and make sure they are correct.
- ❖ Start putting in detail that make the leaf interesting-

tears in the edge, holes in the body of the leaf. These will also help you see where the drawing may be off.

- ❖ Check how the petiole/stalk attaches to the leaf. This is always interesting and beautiful.
- ❖ Add the secondary veins you think you want to show and make sure they connect to primary veins in the right place.
- ❖ Correct then erase your original line so you don't make the same mistake twice.
- ❖ Don't worry about erasures on these studies. Sarah Simblet says seeing the "first thoughts" helps to give the drawing some energy.

Here are some Rory McEwen leaves that he painted at the end of his life and his quote about drawing them which continues to be meaningful.

The International news gets worse and worse, & still I sit and paint leaves. I feel like those Chinese artists who, in ages of great barbarism and unrest, painted images & wrote poems in which metaphor described the tragic events around them so that the message was passed on to later ages in a simple, cryptic fashion. A dying leaf should be able to carry the weight of the world. ... Rory McEwen

