

Drawing the Rose Family

In early spring we get to draw and color many versions of the simple rose from the tiny flowering plum blossoms to the larger apple blossoms. They are simple little flowers and a nice small step toward spring.

Genera in the rose family include the *Cydonia* (quince,) *Fragraria* (strawberry,) *Malus* (apple,) *Prunus* (almond, apricot, cherry, nectarine, peach, plum, prune,) *Pyrus* (pear,) *Rubus* (blackberry, raspberry,) *Crataegis* (hawthorn,) *Spiraea*, and of course the Rose.

The flowers usually have

- ❖ 5 Sepals (*Calyx*),
- ❖ 5 Petals (*Corolla*),
- ❖ multiple stamen (*Androecium*) and
- ❖ often one compound pistil (*Gynoecium*), some superior, some with inferior ovaries which produce an amazing array of different fruits.

Whatever flower you choose to draw, do a dissection if you can and check out its separate parts.

- ❖ Do some three-minute **gesture drawings**. Try several views.
- ❖ Refine your drawings but try to keep the energy of those first drawings.
- ❖ Many flowers can be drawn in a simple circle. A circle becomes an oval when it is turned. Find the geometric shape that fits your flower. Remind yourself of that symmetry when you are reworking your drawing.
- ❖ Pull off a petal and do color studies. Choose a color or two to darken your petal color. Think about analogous color (colors that sit near to each other on the color wheel).
- ❖ Look for flower color in the stem and leaves.

"It is not what you look at that matters, it's what you see."

...Henry David Thoreau

