

Lichen-Worlds within Worlds

I am sure you have all heard the story of Freddie Fungi and Annie Algae who took a Lichen to each other? I have found several different helpful techniques for working with small details in lichen or other tiny subjects Start with a small section of your branch.

- ❖ **Magnify** the subject. Get really close.
 - A microscope works best
 - a good hand lens will do.
 - photograph the flower close up. You can then blow that picture up and print it out or view it on your computer screen.
- ❖ Draw an **enlargement** of a section of the branch you are looking at. Focus on one small area and start to see even more detail and lots more color that will inform your smaller piece.
- ❖ Get a good sharp point on your pencils- Faber-Castell and Pablos work best for this.
- ❖ **Simplify** some of the detail without losing important information. Decide what you want to show
- ❖ If you have it, check out Lucy Martin's demo in the new [ASBA Botanical Arts Techniques book](#) (pictures 1 to 8.) She is able to put light on top of dark with gouache but we can just reverse her techniques. Use your darkest pencils to carve out the shapes on the branch.
- ❖ Think of these funny shapes as other more identifiable objects- flowers, lava, maybe a face.



- ❖ Play with textural marks to show the fine hairs but examine them closely and see if you can find stems and connections.

“One day as I was struggling along, my friend Jean-Paul dropped by to see a beadwork piece that had just come from India. It was ten inches wide by thirty feet long and illustrated a complicated love story and elopement, with beads no larger than sesame seeds. *Jean Paul*, I asked, *how on earth could a person do this- always making the right decisions, making it look as if it had been born, not made.* He rubbed his chin thoughtfully and answered, *Well I think first you take a white bead...*”

...Jan Steward, [Learning by Heart](#)