



BIG-FLOWER MAGNOLIA

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Drawing Spring Leaves

❖ Look closely at your leaf to see what is really going on. The more you know and understand about what you are drawing the more you can portray and tell the viewer.

❖ Do a leaf rubbing if possible. Put a piece of tracing paper over your leaf and use a soft (HB or softer) pencil to rub over the whole leaf showing the venation and the edges. Some leaves will be too fragile for this but if you can it is a handy thing to do.

❖ Color- Greens that will work for most leaves

FC # 168 Earth Green Yellowish			
FC #167 Permanent. Green Olive			Prismacolor Olive
FC #174 Chromium Green Opaque			
FC #278 Chrome Oxide Green			Prismacolor Dark Green
FC #172 Earth Green			Prismacolor Celadon
			Mix P. Indigo Blue and Canary Yellow

- ❖ Start with your darkest pencil in the areas that are darkest- usually on one side of the veins or where the leaf is curling away from you.
- ❖ Lay down a **smooth gradation** of tone to create a change in value. Carefully feather out your strokes until your dark disappears.
- ❖ Next layer each lighter pencil on top of the others to create saturated color. Keep your hand light, go slowly and carefully. Leave the white of the paper where needed for highlights.
- ❖ Use a pale green or yellow for burnishing if your leaves are shiny or simply build up color.
- ❖ Soften any highlights with your white pencil. Add Prismacolor Cloud Blue to mute the white paper.



“Every leaf speaks bliss to me.” ... Emily Brontë