



Oak Leaf ©Eleanor Wunderlich

Leaves- Details and Finishing

It can be a very satisfying experience to complete a half-finished picture if just a leaf. It can also be enlightening.

Go back to an leaf you worked on in the past month (or a pod or acorn or that winter squash or corn) and see what you can do to take it to completion. Or look again at a leaf you thought was finished.

- ❖ Color-often we need to add more pigment, do more layering. If we layer more, we have the possibility of blending more.
 - If you made color tests and notations, you should be able to keep going with your colors.
 - If your leaf has lost its color or you have lost your leaf, you can still reconstruct from your color notes or your memory, or what you have done so far. You can work from a different leaf from the same tree.
 - Look where you can make darks, darker (usually the tips) and where you can add form with darker shadows.
 - You can also lift color with your kneaded eraser where you lost your lights.
- ❖ Detail- hopefully you have been experimenting with color these past weeks. These leaves also give us the opportunity to experiment with detail.
 - Adding color markings
 - Spots
 - What to add, what to leave out.
 - Torn areas and holes can be very interesting and created after the fact.
 - Tips of Black Oaks can be darkened and carefully added with a sharp pencil (or even a pen!)

"It is important to be vigorously honest about each shape and rework it until it is right. Reworking is not about correcting errors it is a positive part of the process of seeing."

Sarah Simblet, Sketchbook for the Artist