

Thoughts about Leaves in Transition.

Working with single autumn leaves gives us the opportunity to study not just color but color in transition-

Greens no longer being formed by photosynthesis and fading and revealing Yellows and Oranges hiding underneath. Reds and Purples being formed by chemical reactions to light and temperature.



- ❖ Draw several quick three-minute leaves.
- ❖ Experiment in color on each of them. If you do not like the way the color is going on one, move on to another.
- ❖ Start with some small circles just to identify and look at colors. Try one or two pencils that you have never used before.
- ❖ Identify dark areas and put them in first to create form. Consider a brown! This week I worked with Bistre (179) and Burnt Umber (180) for the first time
- ❖ Identify a base color that might be underneath and decide how to put that in:
 - Watercolor?
 - Pan Pastel?
 - A light lay down of color with your pencils?
- ❖ Avoid Patchwork. Try to see where colors blend into each other or colors that are mixes of each other for example, greens still in the leaf that turn up in the reds.
- ❖ See what you can do with 6-7 pencils, maybe only 5. Don't spend too much time choosing colors. Stay basic and see what you can mix.
- ❖ Glaze- a watercolor term, but we can do it too- adding a layer of color. Use a brown or ochre or the "local" color on top to bring everything together.

"Why do two colors, put one next to the other, sing? Can one really explain this? No. Just as one can never learn how to paint." **Pablo Picasso**