

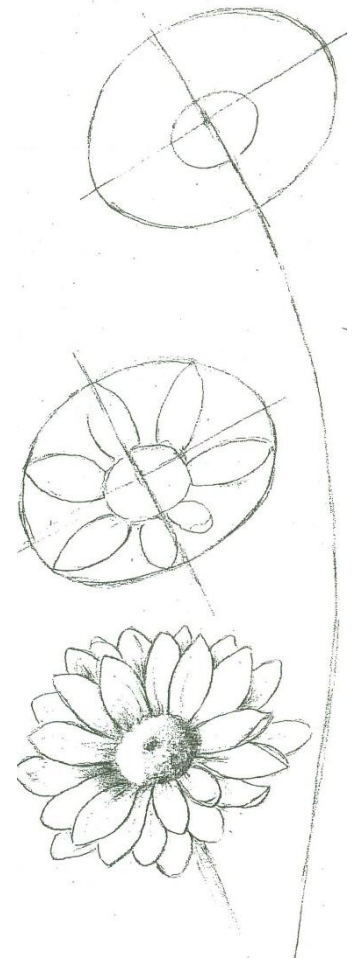


## Zinnias and Perspective and Foreshortening

These happy summer flowers give us the opportunity to practice drawing in perspective and to learn about foreshortening. Let go of the pretty picture for an afternoon and create a sheet of daisy like flowers, zinnias, sunflowers, asters, whatever, just to practice seeing them posed in different directions.

The first thing to remember is to draw what you see and not what you know. This flower is a circle but rarely does it present itself to us that way so we have to stop thinking circle. Leaves tilt away from us so we do not perceive them as big as when they are in our hands. Take time to look and to discover how to draw these last of summer flowers.

- ❖ Start with the angle the flower is posed at. Get that line on the paper first.
- ❖ Then start with **measuring**. You can just use your pencil to see the difference in proportion between the width of your flower head and the length. Keep your arm straight so you are always measuring at the same distance.
- ❖ Mark your horizontal and vertical measurements on your paper.
- ❖ Check where the center of your flower lies. It may be lower if your flower is cupped. In zinnias it often is higher than usual if the flower curves away from you. Your inner "circle" will have the same proportions (oval shape) as the first oval. Check that.
- ❖ The most common mistake is to draw the ray florets in the front or lower side longer than they appear. Draw what you see....



*"I have learned that what I have not drawn, I have never really seen, and that when I start drawing an ordinary thing, I realize how extra ordinary it is ".....Frederick Franck, The Zen of Seeing*