

Flowers and Leaves in perspective

“To draw a leaf in perspective, it helps to forget that it is a leaf and that it is tilting away from you. Look at it as if it were an unfamiliar flat shape. ... The key to success with perspective is to draw what you can see, rather than what you know.”

... Sarah Simblet, Botany for the Artist

Flowering quince is one of the first flowers of spring and presents us with an opportunity to study perspective and foreshortening.

We get multiple views of the flowers as they wind around the stem and pose facing different directions.

Winter leaves still on stems can offer some of the same opportunities turning and twisting in the wind.

Perspective is a technique for drawing a three-dimensional object on a two-dimensional piece of paper.

Foreshortening is a method of showing perspective by shortening parts of the object. As we tilt flower or leaf toward or away from us parts of the subject appear shorter. Try looking at a leaf or these little flowers and

drawing them from different directions.

- ❖ Try experimenting with a leaf or flower on (or off) a stem, turning them in different directions and doing quick sketches to see what happens as the leaf turns.
- ❖ Quick studies loosen us up for a more formal drawing and help to keep us from getting attached to the “pretty picture.”

“What I think is the best life, oh without even the slightest shadow of a doubt, is a life made up of long years of being in touch with nature out of doors.”

...Vincent (Van Gogh)



Nina Antze
Drawing Nature