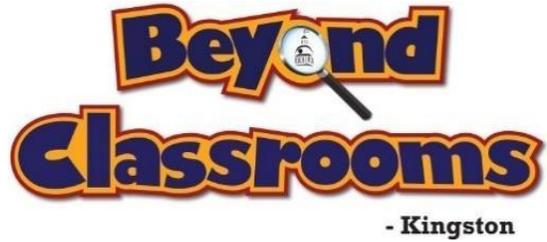


Beyond Classrooms Kingston Workshop

Learn to Sketch Worksheet: Video 2: Sketching a Leaf

With Francesca Pang



Workshop Summary: Leaf Sketching Virtual Sketching Workshop – Drawing from Nature

This workshop introduces participants to sketching natural objects—specifically a leaf—using observation and basic shapes. The session encourages mindful observation, builds confidence in drawing, and supports journaling or personal art practices.

Materials Needed:

- Pencil (any kind)
- Sheet of paper
- A natural object (ideally leaf-sized and found outdoors)

Workshop Overview:

Introduction & Setup

Participants are encouraged to select a natural object about the size of their hand. The instructor models using a leaf, demonstrating how to observe its size, shape, and detail.

Observational Drawing (Not Tracing)

Focus is on observing the object, holding it, turning it, and seeing from different angles. Participants are guided to draw from observation—not by tracing—training hand-eye coordination.

Recognizing Shapes in Nature

The leaf is broken down into basic geometric shapes: squares, triangles, rectangles, and semicircles. Using these shapes helps participants structure their sketch.

Sketching Process

Begin with light pencil lines; rough in the larger shapes. Gradually add detail, adjusting size and proportions visually. Emphasis on taking time, using short lines, and accepting imperfection—the sketch does not need to be exact.

Adding Detail

After the outer shape is established, move to interior details like veins, curves, and any holes or unique features. Choose a few favorite features to emphasize.

Shading Techniques

Introduce shading to show depth and curvature. Demonstrate how light and shadow define the 3D nature of the object. Use the side of the pencil for a softer shading effect.

Shadow on the Table

Sketch the object's shadow to ground it and show interaction with its environment. Reinforces concepts of light direction and form.

Final Touches

Sign and date the drawing. Optionally label parts of the object for journaling or educational purposes.

Key Takeaways:

- Sketching is about observation, not perfection.
- Basic shapes can break down complex forms.
- Shading adds dimension and realism.
- Nature provides endless inspiration—no two sketches will be the same.
- Labeling your drawing can enhance reflection and documentation, especially in a nature journal.