I Can’t Draw…Until I Practice!

Flowers & Insects

This step by step "how to draw" book will help build confidence in the ability to draw. You will be learning to draw like I draw. I looked at real objects and photographs and made up the steps.

The best way to learn how to draw is by looking at three dimensional objects (real things). Included, in these pages, are photographs of a few of the objects I looked at to draw these step by step instructions. Whether I learn to draw from "how to" sheets, photographs or real objects, I begin by looking for simple lines and shapes and drawing what I see. We can learn to draw, if we really want to. As with any skill, how good we get depends on how much we practice.

This step by step format is used in many "how to draw" books. The learner compares each step with the next step to see what new lines or shapes have been added. Then, add the shapes or lines to our own drawing. Observing, identifying & analyzing lines & shapes builds higher order thinking skills (strengthens the brain). That’s how I created the images in this book.

Photographs included were taken either by my husband, Sonny Polnick, or me.

When I taught art lessons, to large groups, I used cloth flower arrangements in painted coffee cans. Each can had the same variety of flowers. That way every student had the chance to practice the flowers I demonstrated drawing or other flowers from the object in front of them, instead of copying from my drawing. The results were much more individual, diversified, interesting, expressive, and creative. Seeing all the different ways there were to draw the same thing made my heart happy.

At home, I prefer to draw from live flowers. I grow a small variety for cutting and drawing, or simply enjoying. I love diversity.

I Can’t Draw…Until I Practice… Flowers & Insects !❤️ Copyright © All Rights reserved ❤️ “Mo” M.C.Gillis

This may be copied for personal use & sharing, not for commercial use.
Contact artist, mo@expandingheart.com, to give feedback or negotiate commercial & non-profit agreements.
I Can’t Draw... Until I Practice! Practice to Picture

Please don’t think of these step by step lessons as end result. Step by step “helps” are just that. They help you feel comfortable drawing the object. Once comfortable, think of ways to use what was learned to make a fun picture.

These are a few fun pictures students made with what they learned about how to draw flowers. There are an infinite number of possibilities.
Above is a photograph of a hibiscus flower that was growing on a bush in the yard. I sketched many of the flowers on the bush. These two “finished” drawings were done by me, at different times. Both are Hibiscus flowers. One is realistic; the other is more stylized. The realistic one I drew just to see how close to the real thing I could get. This type of drawing takes more concentration, patience, and time. The image with words was made as a card for a friend.

More of my work can be viewed at www.expandingheart.com. There are some flower designs under Cards. Look for Flowers & Insects.

Our togetherness blossoms. With like heart & mind, united in purpose, we become a powerful force for love.
I Can't Draw...Until I Practice! A Simple Flower

Read, like a book, from left to right. Look for the simplest shapes and start there. One at a time, add shapes and lines until the picture is complete. Practice! Practice! Practice! I looked at actual objects and photos to figure out how to draw these images. Step by step lessons build confidence, but drawing from life, that's the best. Mistakes are our friends. Enjoy making "mistakes", goofy drawings you might not like; it is how we learn.

Build your confidence by drawing a simple flower step by step. Once you learn how simple it is, you can practice on your own. Draw from real flowers or photographs. Look for the shapes and lines. Look! Look! Look and then draw. Spend more time observing than drawing. Draw what you actually see (all the crooked, uneven lines and shapes), not what you think you see. When drawing a close-up of a flower, make it easier by starting in the middle.

Now... see if you can follow the pictorial step by step sequence below without written instructions. The key is to compare each new step with the last one to figure out what lines and shapes have been added.

---

I Can't Draw... Until I Practice... Flowers & Insects ! ❤️ Copyright © All Rights reserved ❤️ "Mo" M.C.Gillis

This may be copied for personal use & sharing, not for commercial use.

Contact artist, mo@expandingheart.com, to give feedback or negotiate commercial & non-profit agreements.

A friend gave me a pot of African Violets. They were so beautiful; I had to draw them. First I made a pencil sketch. From the pencil sketch, I made this black and white illustration. Then, I thought about how to draw it out step by step for you.

Each step must be compared with the one before to see what lines and/or shapes have been added. Then, add what you see.

Read the steps like a book, from left to right.

The Flower... 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

The Leaf... 1 2 3 4 5

This last illustration is a small section of the plant. Start simple and add more as you go. Happy drawing!
I Can’t Draw...Until I Practice! Bluebonnets & Ferns

Read, like a book, from left to right. Look for the simplest shapes and start there. One at a time, add shapes and lines until the picture is complete. Practice! Practice! Practice! I looked at actual objects and photos to figure out how to draw these images. Step by step lessons build confidence, but drawing from life, that’s the best. Mistakes are our friends. Enjoy making “mistakes”, goofy drawings you might not like; it is how we learn.

The bluebonnet flower looks like two blue beans touching with a white circle in the middle and a blue oval underneath.

So build up the stem with blue flowers one at a time. Fill it full.

Once blue flowers are full, add leaves. Each leaf has five “petals”.

Add blooms and leaves until the plant is full.

I Can’t Draw… Until I Practice… Flowers & Insects! © 2023 “Mo” M.C.Gillis

This may be copied for personal use & sharing, not for commercial use.

Contact artist, mo@expandingheart.com, to give feedback or negotiate commercial & non-profit agreements.

These are photos my husband and I took of Bluebonnets. The roadsides, outside of Houston, Texas, are filled with Bluebonnets and other wild flowers in the spring. Sometimes I take photographs so later I can practice drawing what I have seen.

It’s beneficial to practice drawing close up images, as well as mid-range, and distant compositions. I stretch my ability by drawing things I’ve never drawn before.

The photo below is from a farm in Schulenburg, Texas.
Read, like a book, from left to right. Look for the simplest shapes and start there. One at a time, add shapes and lines until the picture is complete. Practice! Practice! Practice! I looked at actual objects and photos to figure out how to draw these images. Step by step lessons build confidence, but drawing from life, that’s the best. Mistakes are our friends. Enjoy making “mistakes”, goofy drawings you might not like; it is how we learn. This step by step is a little rough draft, but don’t let that stop you from practicing it and trying it in many different colors. Why not make a multi-colored bouquet.
I Can’t Draw... Until I Practice! Daffodils

Read, like a book, from left to right. Look for the simplest shapes and start there. One at a time, add shapes and lines until the picture is complete. Practice! Practice! Practice! I looked at actual objects and photos to figure out how to draw these images. Step by step lessons build confidence, but drawing from life, that's the best. Mistakes are our friends. Enjoy making “mistakes”, goofy drawings you might not like; it is how we learn.

Using these photographs I took and sketches I drew, see if you can figure out your own style of step by step. Do it over again and over again if you want to master the skill.

Daffodils have 6 petals.

Daffodils have long, thick lines for stems and long, thin leaves.

I Can’t Draw... Until I Practice... Flowers & Insects ! ♥ Copyright © All Rights reserved ♥ “Mo” M.C.Gillis

This may be copied for personal use & sharing, not for commercial use.

Contact artist, mo@expandingheart.com, to give feedback or negotiate commercial & non-profit agreements.

I Can’t Draw... Until I Practice! Daisies

Read, like a book, from left to right. Look for the simplest shapes and start there. One at a time, add shapes and lines until the picture is complete. Practice! Practice! Practice! I looked at actual objects and photos to figure out how to draw these images. Step by step lessons build confidence, but drawing from life, that’s the best. Mistakes are our friends. Enjoy making “mistakes”, goofy drawings you might not like; it is how we learn.

Draw a Daisy step by step...

1. Draw a small circle.
2. Draw another circle around it.
3. Draw small dark circles around the center.
4. Fill the space with more circles.
5. Draw four petals evenly around the circle.
6. Add four more petals in between.
7. Make the edges jagged. Add jagged lines.
8. Add more petals “behind” to show overlapping space.
9. Add a stem and leaves.

I Can’t Draw... Until I Practice... Flowers & Insects! ♥ Copyright © All Rights reserved ♥ "Mo" M.C.Gillis

This may be copied for personal use & sharing, not for commercial use.
Contact artist, mo@expandingheart.com, to give feedback or negotiate commercial & non-profit agreements.
Read, like a book, from left to right. Look for the simplest shapes and start there. One at a time, add shapes and lines until the picture is complete. Practice! Practice! Practice! I looked at actual objects and photos to figure out how to draw these images. Step by step lessons build confidence, but drawing from life, that’s the best. These are photos I took, here in Texas, of Indian Paintbrushes.
I Can't Draw...Until I Practice! Lillies

Read, like a book, from left to right. Look for the simplest shapes and start there. One at a time, add shapes and lines until the picture is complete. Practice! Practice! Practice! I looked at actual objects and photos to figure out how to draw these images. Step by step lessons build confidence, but drawing from life, that’s the best. Mistakes are our friends. Enjoy making “mistakes”, goofy drawings you might not like; it is how we learn. The top half of the page is a Calla Lily. The bottom half of the page shows how to draw Lilly of the Valley.