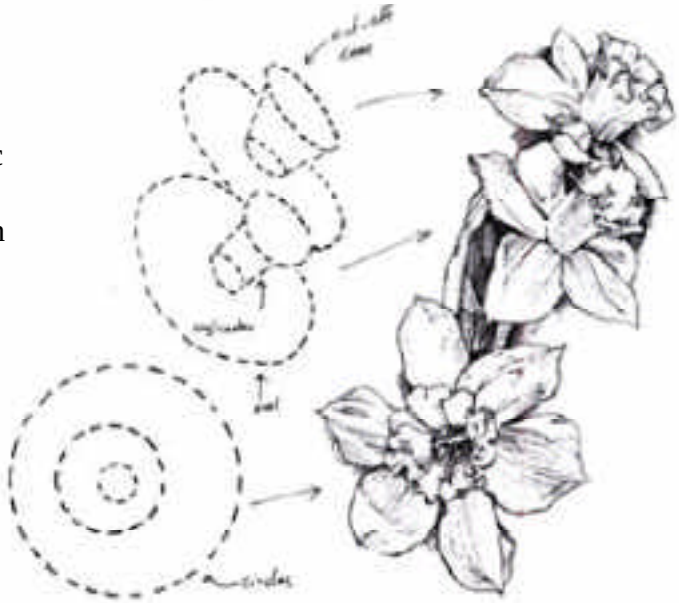
Tip #55

Wildflowers & Weeds

They're everywhere, no matter where we live! Wildflowers and weeds are wonderful subjects, available through three seasons in most areas-even the dried stalks are fun to paint in winter, or pick some and dry or press them in season for year-round painting opportunities.

Art 55-1, Geometric Shapes

Try fitting their varied shapes into a geometric form if perspective or depth are a challenge. A very light line with perhaps a dot to place each petal will help you to draw them more accurately. (Yes of course a daffodil's not a wildflower, but this illustration gets the idea across!)



Art 55-1

Art 55-2

Art 55-2, Desert Plants

For my upcoming North Light book, *Painting in Nature; an Artist's Guide*, I found myself painting wildflowers through the year, including the lovely dried forms in the desert autumn. Try this botanical-painting style, with as much detail as you can muster, against a white background - you may find it will even help you identify the plants you've found! (Here, from left, one of the buckwheats, a composite, Mormon tea, and the long spike is a Joshua leaf.)

Art 55-3, Wild Geranium

Try painting with gouache or opaque watercolor on a toned paper. Black is not only dramatic, but really makes your flower POP!

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Art 55-3