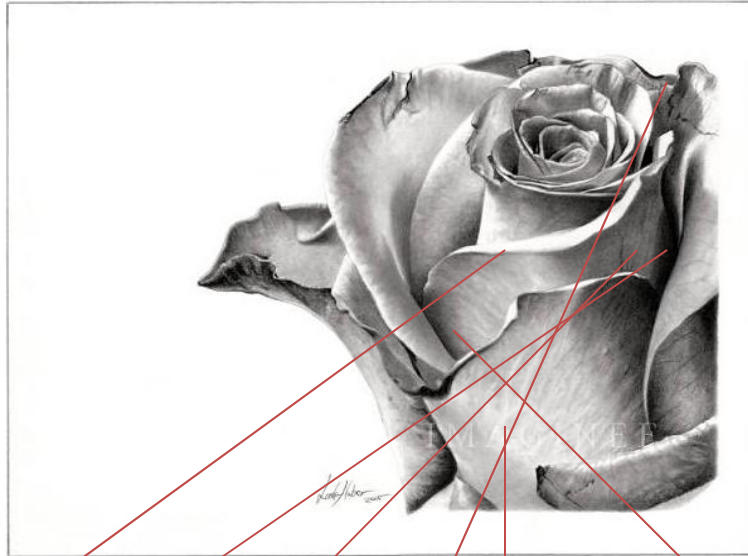


Nature of Light



Light as we see it

Highlights, Core Shadow, *Reflected Light*, Halos, Directional Light, *Cast Shadow*.

From left to right in the picture above you will see the lighter side is not all the same tone, but a gradual darkening to the point where things get very dark then lighten up again because light does not bend around corners.

Reflected light is light that bounces back from a near surface. It may mix with or be influenced by that surface therefore adding a muted color back into your composition. Look for this happening when dealing with large blooms of strong color. Your near leaves may not be as green as you planned, but influenced by the color of the bloom.

In Botanical Illustration we float our subject doing away with cast shadows outside the cluster of flora itself. Within the make-up of our flower subject we may find cast shadows as well as faint reflected light, not white light as it will have taken up the color from whence it was bounced or sent.

Sometimes this is faint, but reflected light can often be used to lift an otherwise dull area of a picture. When drawing in graphite it may simply be a lighted area close to another surface, but never white. When we get into color pencil this is a lesson you will see again as we study reflected light bringing color back into the mix of our rendering. Positioning your subject in order to take advantage of this often overlooked add-on could change a good picture to a great picture just for this one subtle color reflection.