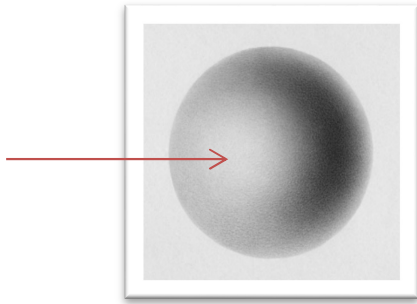


Light & Core Shadows



RAKE Light

When dealing with shadows all depends on understanding light and how it works.

First big rule; Botanical light is always referred to as “Standard Light” meaning the rule of light does not change for the Botanical Artist – it is always 45 degrees over your left shoulder.

Second big rule; Light does not bend; it may bounce [reflected light] but never bends.

With the rules understood here are a few words on why and how we use this light to our advantage in our illustrations.

First big rule; the light source is never changed because this angle of light gives us the most readable shadows in our pictures. This angle of light also affords us a light to dark [left to right] rendering that is quickly understood by viewers of because the Western world reads left to right.

LIGHT

Always over your left shoulder; to develop the values of shadows rendering 3D pictures.

Now to address the core shadow found easily here on the ball. Without this core shadow we would not be able to mimic nature on a flat surface [our paper] rendering a 3D picture.

As you look at the ball, a tone is found to the left of the highlight but only a slight value, while on the right of the highlight we find shadows deepening because light will not bend around that ball.

That core shadow is what we read contributing to a round object, or an object that is not directly in light.

Let's look at this same light, same shadow, used to the advantage of the artist working in graphite pencil. Note the shadow detail on the left of the subject.

Standard Light Core Shadows

