

## Behind the Scenes



Baby Fishhook Barrel Cactus, 8" across.



It takes time to draw the hundreds (thousands?) of spines on a barrel cactus. Forever, it seems. Time for another meditation ..... ommmmmm.....

Sitting cross-legged on my foam pad, I drew spine after spine after spine.... but I did leave out the horizontal

ones. I have my limits. But more importantly, the PICTURE has its limits. It would turn nearly black with lines, while in truth, the spines are supposed to be white or pink. Knowing I was going to paint this, I didn't want to put too much ballpoint ink on the paper since it bleeds slightly when wet and will dull the picture. That's not good un-

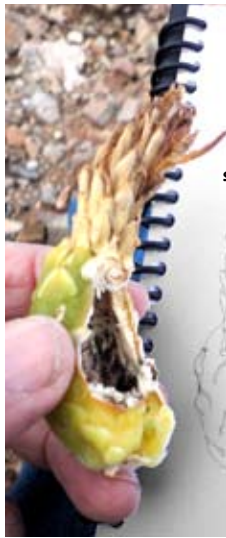
less "dulling" is part of your artistic scheme.

So I exercised artistic license on both the young round cactus and the older elongated cactus by indicating more distant spines with hazy light-pink and orangeish halos.

The yellow cactus fruit I originally drew had been chewed open, probably by packrats, to get to the seeds. But on this fruit, remaining seeds hadn't yet been carried away by ants, so I referenced this fruit for the seeds I added to my drawing.



Original sketch of the fruit



Elderly Barrel Cactus

Notice the "fishhooks" on these cacti. The O'odham people of southern Arizona used them to catch fish. They're tough and very sharp.