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Course Information: BIL 145 | Botanical Drawing for Beginners

Welcome to Botanical Drawing for Beginners! The goal of this class is to learn the fundamentals of Botanical Art and its applications including

- ◇ Learn about the history of Botanical Art, past and present
- ◇ Familiarize yourself with materials and tools regularly used by botanical artists
- ◇ Learn basic plant morphology
- ◇ Accurately draw a botanical subject in graphite
- ◇ Create dimension with light and shading

This class is not a certificate class, therefore there will not be homework or grades. Many students go on to take Drawing I and II within the certificate program after completing this class.

### **REQUIRED MATERIALS**

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*A note on choosing materials...*

*In Botanical Art the quality of materials can make a big difference. Professional artist grade supplies are recommended where possible. The goal is to have materials that work with you, leaving more room to focus on technique.*

#### **Graphite Pencils**

1 each in grade 2B, HB and 2H  
Recommended brands: Derwent, Faber Castell, Mono, Prismacolor Turquoise or Staedtler Mars Lumograph.

- ◇ *It is important to make a complete set with one brand. Tones vary in different brands of the same hardness.*

#### **Colored Pencils**

Faber-Castell Polychromos Colored Pencils  
Cadmium Yellow 107                      Cobalt Turquoise 153  
Cadmium Orange 111                      Grass Green 166  
Middle Purple Pink 125                      Dark sepia 175  
Purple Violet 136                              Warm Grey IV 273

- ◇ *If you already have professional grade pencils in another brand there is no need to buy a new set (e.g. Prismacolor, Caran D’Ache Luminance, Derwent Lightfast). Try to approximate the recommended colors.*

#### **Pen**

Micron Pens – Color Black. One pen, size 0.005

### **Erasers**

Faber Castell brand kneaded eraser  
Staedtler white eraser  
Tombow Mono Zero eraser (circle or rectangle shape is fine)  
Erasing shield

◇ *Do not buy the Pink Pearl eraser. It will damage your art paper when you erase with it.*

### **Pencil Sharpener**

Muji Desktop Pencil Sharpener (desktop crank sharpener) or  
Faber-Castell F582800 Double Hole Sharpener (hand-held)

### **Measuring tools**

6" or 12" Ruler  
Blick Masterbow Divider (like a compass but with 2 needle points)

◇ *Do not buy a compass for your measuring tool. Also, avoid plastic dividers or calipers as they are less precise.*

### **Paper**

Strathmore 500 Series Bristol Vellum Surface Pad 11x14" or  
250gsm Stonehenge Vellum Finish Pad 11x14"

Tracing Paper 11x14" Canson Foundation Calque or similar

◇ *Do not buy cold press watercolor or Bristol Plate paper*

### **Miscellaneous**

Dusting Brush – a small makeup brush or a feather works well  
Task light desk lamp  
Magnifying Lens (hand held)  
Florist frog (for supporting specimen)  
Helping Hand Tool – Magnifier with dual adjustable alligator clips  
Drawing board

### **OPTIONAL**

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#### **Books**

There are many wonderful books on Botanical Art. I encourage you to visit websites of different artists and botanical art groups to familiarize yourself with the many options before buying.

- ◇ Botanical Art Techniques by Carol Woodin and Robin Jess
- ◇ Fundamental Graphite Techniques by Katie Lee
- ◇ The Laws Guide to Nature Drawing and Journaling by John Muir Laws

### **PLACES TO BUY SUPPLIES**

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Visit your local art store!  
DickBlick Art Supply – [www.dickblick.com](http://www.dickblick.com)  
Jerry's Artarama – [www.jerrysartarama.com](http://www.jerrysartarama.com)