

BOTANICAL ART & ILLUSTRATION WORKSHOP

Greenwich Art Society 299 Greenwich Avenue
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Explore the beauty of nature with watercolor and colored pencil. Each week, demonstrations will demystify essential skills such as proportion, foreshortening, light on form, color mixing, and composition, as well as the basic and intermediate techniques of brush and pencil. Working directly from nature, students will sharpen their ability to see as artists. Supportive group reviews are coupled with individual attention. Whatever your goals, this structured class offers the fundamentals you will need to express your personal vision and style. Suitable for beginners and more experienced artists.

Please note: If you have done any drawings or paintings, please bring one or two to the first class. They need not be botanical subjects. This will help me better shape the class to work for you.

Food and cell phones: It is ok to bring coffee or snacks to class, but for your safety, keep them well away from art materials. Make sure to silence your cell phones before class begins.



Materials list

In addition to the materials suggested on this list, please bring any materials you already have. **Feel free to email me with any questions about materials or the class.**

Sources: I buy nearly all my art materials online, checking to see who has the best price (including shipping) at any time. My lower-cost sources include **Cheap Joe's**, **Jerry's Artarama**, **ASW Express**, and **MisterArt**. **Dick Blick** carries nearly everything and **Daniel Smith** offers a huge line of unique watercolor paints (that includes historical mineral colors not found anywhere else). Now and then I find just what I need at independent art stores anywhere across the country. Chains that have local retail locations include: **A.I. Friedman** in Port Chester (*10% discount with GAS membership card*), **Jerry's Artarama** in West Hartford, **Dick Blick** in Plainville. I've noticed that some **Michael's** craft stores carry Canson Calque tracing paper and some Strathmore papers. Some materials may also be found at **Staples**, although not reliably.

Basic materials for everyone:

- ▶ **Sense of fun and the desire to explore**
- ▶ **Paper:**
 - ▶ 9 x12" or larger pad 80 lb. Strathmore Series 400 regular surface drawing paper or equivalent. Do NOT get sketching paper or Strathmore 300 series as the paper is too thin and has a less predictable surface. Strathmore recycled is ok and is whiter than the regular. Strathmore Windpower is also ok.
 - ▶ 9"x12" or larger pad Canson Calque tracing paper - this is the most transparent brand I have found
- ▶ **Erasers:** One each white plastic and kneaded erasers. Good to get if you can find it: Papermate's "Tuff Stuff" white plastic stick eraser.
- ▶ **Pencils:** HB graphite drawing pencil (any brand)
- ▶ **Good-quality pencil sharpener:** Whatever model you buy, it must create a very long, smooth-sided, even point. Battery powered or hand-cranked models with a spiral (not straight) cutting edge preferred. The only good cheap straight-edged blade one I have found is PrismaColor's sharpener shaped like a bullet (right).
- ▶ **Tape:** Low-tack tape, either drafting tape or clear



Watercolor materials for those who want to paint:

If you already have watercolors and brushes, bring them to class. While it not true that good materials make one a good artist, it is true that bad materials can hide how really good one may be.

- ▶ **Paints** - Get artist grade rather than student grade; student grade may have more filler and less pigment. Only purchase paints with a lightfastness rating of I or II. Manufacturers usually include a lightfastness rating on the tube or provide it in a brochure or online. There are many good brands include Winsor & Newton, Daniel Smith, M. Graham, DaVinci, Maimeri, Utrecht, Rembrandt, Schminke. I prefer tubes to pans – I find them more versatile and kinder on your brushes.

Option One: My basic colors if you can easily find them:

- ▶ Schmincke Helio Cerulean
- ▶ Schmincke Pure Yellow
- ▶ Schmincke Ruby Red
- ▶ (Any Brand) French Ultramarine Blue
- ▶ **Optional but nice to have:** Sap Green, Chromium Oxide Green (two useful “convenience” greens), Cobalt Turquoise (for leaves fading into distance), Yellow Ochre, Burnt Sienna, Raw Umber

Option Two: Get the following colors in any of the brands mentioned above::

- ▶ Lemon Yellow (greenish-yellow)
- ▶ Cadmium Yellow Medium (orangey-yellow)
- ▶ Cadmium Red (orangey-red)
- ▶ Alizarin Crimson Permanent (alternately, Permanent Rose - both are purplish-reds)
- ▶ Prussian Blue (greenish-blue)
- ▶ French Ultramarine Blue (purplish-blue – make sure tube does not say “green shade”)
- ▶ **Optional but nice to have:** Sap Green, Chromium Oxide Green (two useful “convenience” greens), Cobalt Turquoise (for leaves fading into distance), Yellow Ochre, Burnt Sienna, Raw Umber

▶ **Brushes**

- ▶ Sable/synthetic mix such as **Winsor & Newton Sceptre Gold** series - rounds #1 or 2, #3 or 4 and #8 or equivalent.

▶ **Watercolor paper**

- ▶ So that I do not have to stretch my watercolor paper, I use heavyweight (300 lb.) Lanaquarelle, Saunders Waterford, or Fabriano Artistico hot pressed surface (HP). However, 140lb is cheaper and will work if you don't use a lot of water. Cold Pressed (CP) is also ok, but do not get Rough surface. Get a 22"x30" sheet cut in quarters. Many botanical artists use Arches, but it can prove difficult for students to work on.

▶ **Other materials for watercolor:**

- ▶ 2 stable-based water containers
- ▶ Palette and small mixing cups -- I strongly recommend **porcelain palettes with wells or small dishes**. I find that flat palettes promote stingy mixtures that you cannot dip your brush into, while paint beads up on and stains plastic.
- ▶ Lintless cotton rags or old dishtowel, paper towels and non-lotion tissues.

Colored pencil materials if you prefer drawing:

If you already have colored pencils, bring them to class. You will need A NEW kneaded eraser that you will use for colored pencil ONLY.

▶ **Paper:**

- ▶ You can start with the same paper you use for graphite drawings. Later you may want to try Stonehenge or another smoother paper.

- ▶ **Verithin colored pencils:** Set of 12 minimum. Staples carries them. There is no substitute for their hardness.

► **Purchase one of the following brands from open stock if possible, rather than in a set.** Sets often contain colors you will never use and the pencils may not all be light fast. (all of these colors have good lightfastness):

Option One: Faber Castell

- Primaries: Light Yellow Glaze 104, Canary Yellow 108, Ultramarine 120, Phthalo Blue 110, Pale Geranium Lake 121, Fuchsia 123
- Secondaries: Cadmium Orange 111, Earth Green Yellowish 168, Dark Phthalo Green 264, Purple 194, Delft Blue 141
- Light values: Cadmium Yellow Lemon 205, Cobalt Green 156
- Deep values: Indianthrene Blue 247, Chrome Oxide Green 278, Dark Sepia 175, Black 199
- Earth hues: Light Yellow Ochre 183, Venetian Red 190, Raw Umber 180, Burnt Siena 283
- For burnishing, highlights and lightening colors: White 101, Ivory 103

Option Two: Prismacolor (LF numbers are new lightfast line, PC numbers are standard line):

- Primaries: Lemon Yellow LF115, Canary Yellow LF116, Cobalt Blue Hue LF133, Cerulean Blue LF103, Thio Violet LF195, Permanent Red LF 122 (or Cadmium Red Hue LH124)
- Secondaries: Cadmium Orange Hue LF118, Phthalo Green LF108, Dioxide Purple Hue LF132
- Light values: Cinnabar Yellow LF189, Blue Silver LF287, Manganese Oxide LF209, Cobalt Turquoise LF105
- Deep values: Indanthrone Blue LF208, Prussian Green LF109, Black Grape PC996, Raw Umber LF146
- Earth hues: Burnt Ochre LF143, Gamboge LF203
- For burnishing, highlights and lightening colors: Colorless Blender, White LF138, Ivory Oxide LF114

Option Three: Derwent Coloursoft

- Primaries: C020 Acid Yellow, C040 Deep Cadmium Yellow, C320 Electric Blue, C290 Ultramarine Blue, C120 Red, C150 Cranberry
- Secondaries: C430 Pea Green, C070 Orange
- Light values: C360 Cloud Blue, C390 Grey Green, C270 Soft Pink
- Deep values: C410 Dark Green, C300 Indigo, C160 Loganberry,
- Earth hues: C590 Ochre, C620 Mid Terra Cotta, C540 Pimento
- For burnishing: C010 Cream, C720 White