

2017 WINTER/SPRING COURSE REQUIREMENTS

SCHOOL OF BOTANICAL ART AND ILLUSTRATION

The world-renowned School of Botanical Art and Illustration is located at Denver Botanic Gardens, providing students and scholars with the opportunity to hone their skills in this specialized genre. Much has been said about the modern need to fuse art and science in order to expand economic development and enlightenment, but few programs are as direct in their impact as botanical illustration. The School of Botanical Art and Illustration focuses not only on technique but also on the plants themselves, with courses in botany and microscopy and lectures from visiting artists. From small, highly interactive classes to real-world opportunities for exhibition, sales and publication, the Gardens has every tool needed to instruct and inspire flourishing botanical artists.

Botanical art and illustration is the well-established tradition of portraying plants for scientific purposes, recording vanishing species for historical record or rendering the beauty and inspiration we experience in the flora around us.

Denver Botanic Gardens School of Botanical Art and Illustration's curriculum consists of a comprehensive series of classes in botanical illustration, providing the drawing and illustration skills required to render accurate and useful depictions of the plant world with a focus on detail. This program is for the dedicated illustrator as well as the devoted amateur. It culminates in a foundational certificate or advanced diploma in botanical illustration for some students, and offers an ongoing program of botanical classes for others.

FOUNDATIONAL CERTIFICATE IN BOTANICAL ART & ILLUSTRATION

Introductory Course

Students wishing to learn more about botanical illustration or to brush up on their skills before beginning the certificate sequence can take Introduction to Botanical Illustration, which is not part of the certificate requirements.

Required Courses

The following 15 courses are required if you wish to receive a Foundational Certificate in Botanical Art and Illustration. Classes should be taken in the order determined by their prerequisites.* Courses consist of exercises, critiques, demonstrations and homework assignments. A list of supplies for each course will be sent with class confirmation. Please note: To receive credit for any course, attendance is required at the first class and at 80 percent of the course.

1. Botanical Illustration in Pencil I
2. Light on Form
3. Botany for the Botanical Illustrator
4. Botanical Illustration in Pencil II
5. Composition for Botanical Illustration
6. Color Layering for Colored Pencil
7. Botanical Illustration in Colored Pencil I
8. Perfecting Perspective
9. Botanical Illustration in Colored Pencil II
10. Color Mixing
11. Botanical Illustration in Pen and Ink I
12. Botanical Illustration in Pen and Ink II

13. Botanical Illustration in Watercolor I

14. Botanical Illustration in Watercolor II

15. Portfolio Preparation Course

**Students are responsible for taking note of prerequisites and determining if they are eligible for a course. Class sizes are limited, and seats are meant for those filling course requirements.*

Elective courses

Elective courses serve a variety of purposes. They are designed to increase the student's knowledge, ability and experience in botanical art and should be integrated with the required courses. In addition to the 15 required courses, students must select no fewer than 100 elective hours; it is strongly recommended that students take relevant elective courses simultaneously with the required curriculum. The number of elective classes offered each year may vary. Typically, an elective course meets weekly for three hours over a five-week time period (15 hours total), but condensed courses are also available. Guest instructor workshops may be taken as electives.

Science and Art Lectures

Selected lectures at Denver Botanic Gardens qualify for elective credits. Attendance at one lecture gives one elective credit hour; students can receive a maximum of 15 credit hours from these lectures. Café Botanique is a lecture series open to School of Botanical Art and Illustration students, Gardens members, the general public, academia and artists. Pre-registration is required for credit.

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DISTANCE LEARNING OPTION

In addition to our traditional on-site botanical illustration curriculum, we offer an in-class/off-site option that combines classroom participation with remote online learning. The courses in the traditional on-site curriculum are interchangeable with the courses in the distance learning option.

Required On-Site Courses

The following required courses are held on-site over three days (Friday through Sunday). Work for these classes is completed entirely in the classroom.

- Botanical Illustration in Pencil I
- Light on Form
- Botany for the Botanical Illustrator
- Composition for Botanical Illustration
- Color Layering for Colored Pencil
- Perfecting Perspective
- Portfolio Preparation Course

Required Online Courses with On-Site Component

The following courses are offered through a combination of a two-day on-site intensive classroom experience and online instruction:

- Botanical Illustration in Pencil II
- Botanical Illustration in Colored Pencil I
- Botanical Illustration in Colored Pencil II
- Botanical Illustration in Pen and Ink I
- Botanical Illustration in Pen and Ink II
- Color Mixing
- Botanical Illustration in Watercolor I
- Botanical Illustration in Watercolor II

Classroom Instruction

The classroom instruction portion of courses offered with an online component covers the material in 10 hours spread over two consecutive days. During this classroom session the student will learn new techniques and receive one-on-one tutoring.

The Off-Site Learning Approach

Following the two-day concentrated classroom instruction, three Internet sessions cover the remaining course elements. The successful completion of final artwork (a plate) one month (30 days) after the conclusion of the on-site session is the culmination of each of the distance learning courses.

Students must use a scanner or digital camera to record their weekly achievements and email the high-resolution image to the instructor and the school manager. All student questions, as well

as instructor answers, recommendations and suggestions, are handled by email. The student must send a scan of the final plate to the instructor and the school manager in order to receive credit for the course.

Elective Courses

A selection of electives following the in-class/off-site model is offered occasionally.

FOUNDATIONAL CERTIFICATE IN BOTANICAL ART AND ILLUSTRATION IN 2017

Upon completion of all course work, students may express their interest in submitting their portfolio for review by requesting a transcript from the program manager and registering for the Portfolio Preparation Course by **January 16, 2017**.

The Portfolio Preparation Course is mandatory for graduation. In spring 2017, the Portfolio Preparation Course is offered at two different times. Candidates who have taken this course prior to 2017 do not need to attend; however, the update course is free of charge if already taken prior to 2017 and if space is available. Please contact the manager for availability.

After the Portfolio Preparation Course, candidates have the opportunity for individual consultation with instructors to refine their portfolio pieces prior to the final portfolio drop-off on **September 1, 2017**. More detailed information is circulated at the time of application approval and at the Portfolio Preparation Course.

The complete portfolio must contain five finished botanical plates (preferable plate size 11" x 14" or smaller) in the following media:

1. Graphite pencil
2. Colored pencil
3. Pen and ink
4. Water media
5. Artist's choice (a plate in any of the media taught or a combination of them). The subject matter for this plate can be anything included in the school's teaching curriculum.

KEY DATES FOR 2017 PORTFOLIO REVIEW:

Final Portfolio Drop-off: September 1, 2017

Portfolio Review: October 3, 2017, 1-3 p.m.

GRADUATION CEREMONY FOR 2017 GRADUATES:

November 19, 2017, 1-2 p.m.

ANNUAL GRADUATE AND 2017 STUDENT SHOW OPENING RECEPTION:

November 19, 2017, 2-3 p.m.

2017 WINTER/SPRING COURSE REQUIREMENTS SCHOOL OF BOTANICAL ART AND ILLUSTRATION

DIPLOMA IN BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATION

To be eligible for the diploma program, a student must have completed the Foundational Certificate in Botanical Art and Illustration from Denver Botanic Gardens. Students are also eligible if they have completed a certificate in botanical art and illustration, scientific illustration, nature illustration or equivalent from another institution.

Requirements for Diploma in Botanical Illustration

1. One hundred (100) elective classroom hours, including a minimum of three courses (15-18 hours each) at the master's level.
2. Portfolio containing four finished botanical plates selected from any the following media (maximum plate size 11" x 14"). Portfolio must include at least two different media:
 - graphite
 - carbon dust
 - polycarbonate pencil
 - ink (technical pen, quill, brush, scratchboard)
 - colored pencil (oil and/or wax based)
 - watercolor
 - gouache
 - watercolor pencil
 - transparent acrylics
 - egg tempera
 - silverpoint
 - A mixture of the above

Oils, pastels or digital media are not accepted as part of the portfolio. Additional details regarding presentation and size are provided upon acceptance into the program.

3. Completion of a supervised independent study (a minimum of 6 weeks or 240 hours). The independent study may include, for example:
 - Research on a rare species, an invasive species, noxious weed, fossil, pollination biology or other. Includes an essay and a minimum of four illustrations (containing dissections.)
 - Dummy book with an educational theme or content directed to children.
 - An internship as an illustrator at a museum, botanic garden, science center or other relevant institution that provides on-the-job experience as a scientific/botanical illustrator.

The annual application deadline is October 31.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Denver Botanic Gardens School of Botanical Art and Illustration awards annual scholarships to any new student who is planning to enroll in any of the required classes without prerequisites at the School of Botanical Art and Illustration. The awards are determined on a competitive basis and require the submission of a portfolio and artist's statement.

The annual application deadline is October 31.



Mary Francis, Watercolor