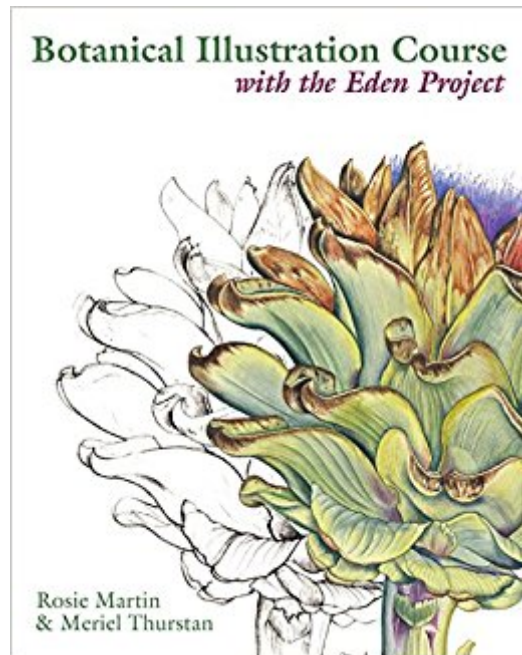




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Botanical Illustration Course: With The Eden Project



Synopsis

This is simply the best and most complete course in botanical illustration ever produced, with each chapter a perfectly constructed and self-contained class. Created in conjunction with the internationally renowned Eden Project®; home of the only jungle in captivity®; it's put together by two leading figures in the Project's famed art school, and uses many beautiful works from its students. Artists and plant lovers will find a wealth of practical information, with easy-to-follow exercises and case studies. The priceless advice encompasses everything from honing observational skills and plant dissection procedures to color mixing and applying watercolor. Adding highlights, producing a pleasing composition, and developing a personal style®; all the building blocks for achieving excellence are here.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Rosie Martin holds a Gold Medal from the RHS for her botanical watercolour painting. She is an elected member of the Society of Botanical Artists and teaches a variety of art-based subjects, including botanical illustration in both. She has worked in fashion, ballet and theatre; her clients have included David Bowie, Anthony Caro, Karl Lagerfeld and Jean Muir, for whom she produced textiles and interior design prints. Meriel Thurstan joined the Eden Project at its creation; she helped to create the Eden's Friends organization and produced its very first magazine. Meriel organizes the extremely successful annual Eden diploma course in botanical illustration. Her own botanical paintings hang in England, France and Australia and have become a popular highlight of each issue

of Eden's Friends magazine. She lives in Cornwall.

This is a really nice introduction to botanical illustration. It covers form, observational drawing, use of graphite, tonal studies, shadow and highlights, texture and the use of watercolors in rendering realistic botanical subjects. It's not a step-by-step guide, but rather provides a wealth of tips and techniques with enough clear examples to help the reader understand the points being conveyed. While I really like this book for its breadth of content as applies to initial drawing (in graphite) and watercolor rendering, I was a little disappointed to see colored pencil go by unmentioned. Since it is a medium often used in botanical illustration, and is used exclusively by some botanical artists, at least a brief discussion of its use here would have been appreciated. Overall though, this is a very good book on botanical illustration and it is sure to stay on my studio shelves for some time to come. I work in watercolor/gouache, colored pencil, pen/ink and acrylics.

This book is a wonderful compilation of educational guidelines on producing artwork and properly representing the beauty and complexity of plants using pencil and watercolor media. It also could pass as a coffee table book as the images are incredible. I was immediately struck at the techniques covered as every art book should - recommendation on watercolor/paper/pencils to use, other tools needed, shading & highlighting, importance of representing the tiniest details, color development (e.g. how to make the right green - I loved that part), depth and so much more. In many ways I was reminded of my university art classes I took many years ago, but this book covers so much more than I garnered through formal education. Those that purchase the book for learning how to bring plants to life on paper or canvas should follow the educational component of the book from the beginning to the end in order to gain the most on how to illustrate plants. By following this method, each artist will definitely get what this book offers - and makes one wish they could take part of the art classes taught at the Eden Project in Cornwall, UK. I definitely wish I could do so!

A fabulous book- explaining all the materials, methods, colors, shapes, and such that make botanical illustrations so very realistic and beautiful. There are marvelous watercolor tips, tips on keeping a sketchbook, showing the roots of a plant, and painting white flowers realistically (something I am horrible at). The book shows you how to create highlights, depth, and texture. It also covers how to show a plant dissected and bisected. More tips include how to make your picture work. A really enjoyable book that has me sketching the leaves from my garden and yard at the kitchen table. Beautifully illustrated throughout.

Impressive...as I am looking around for training in botanical illustration, which can be quite costly, I found this book, which is, in itself, a master course and a chance to learn the fundamentals and try out the process before going on to an expensive classroom experience (which i hope to do). Anyone serious about botanical illustration will find this invaluable...

A book of this quality does not come along very often. It has an incredible amount of helpful information in it. Even though I am not aspiring to be a botanical artist, I am still learning a lot that I can use in my own style of art. One of the best purchases I have made in several years. If you want to get some really good solid information on art this is a great place to start.

Beautiful illustrations and step by step ideas. Picking up art and drawing after having been away for years. I'm happy with this book. Has many pencil exercises that are helpful to the beginner.

This book is wonderful. Besides being clear and providing technical instructions along with spiritual/behavioural ones (i.e. slow down, pause frequently, distance from your subject...) it is a wealth for the pencil lover. If you are someone who truly enjoys working with a hard pencil, this is the book for you, teaching you how to make very good art out of a simple 2H and acid free paper.

Wonderful presentation and information about an underacknowledged niche of contemporary art.

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