

BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATION COURSES AT KEW

MATERIALS LIST 2022/23

Please read through carefully.

For all queries on art materials please contact Lucy Smith l.smith@kew.org

There are three categories of materials in this list: Drawing, Watercolour, Pen and Ink.
ALL COURSES require category 1, Drawing.

BOTANICAL DRAWING: Category 1

BOTANICAL WATERCOLOUR: Categories 1 and 2

BOTANICAL PEN AND INK: Categories 1 and 3

BOTANICAL SKETCHBOOK: Category 1 plus brushes and small amounts of watercolour as below, and/or pen and ink, coloured pencils

FLOWER DISSECTION: Category 1

Small amounts of *some* materials will be provided in Beginners classes.

1. DRAWING

Two **graphite pencils** of different hardness: including 2H and HB

Choose from wooden pencils of artists' quality (e.g. Staedtler, Mars, Faber Castell) OR

Clutch pencil/lead holder (Steadtler, Mars Technico, Faber Castell) with a sharpenable **2mm lead**

A **sharpening device**: craft knife or scalpel with flat blade (10a); AND/OR a barrel sharpener for lead holder

A soft white plastic **eraser**

Ruler/s for measuring: clear plastic ruler and/or set-square (triangle)

Other optional measuring devices: a pair of **technical dividers** (such as you would find in a geometry set).

Good quality **cartridge paper**, in a pad, loose, OR in a **sketchbook (best for Botanical Sketchbook course)**. Choose heavier paper, minimum 160gsm, with a slightly toothed surface, which will allow for repeated erasing and light washes of watercolour. If loose: approximately 3 x A3 sheets for beginners, 5 x A3 for Intermediate and Advanced.

Recommended sketchbooks: Daler Rowney Ebony 160gsm spiral or flat-bound; Fabriano "Venezia," Strathmore or similar.

You can also purchase spiral-bound sketchpads in watercolour paper – some students prefer these.

Tracing paper – in a pad or loose. Approximately 1 piece x A4 for Beginners, 3 x A4 for Intermediate or Advanced.

Small amounts of cartridge paper and tracing paper will be available in Beginners Classes.

2. WATERCOLOUR

You will need the DRAWING set of materials outlined in no. 1, plus:

Watercolour paints – Professional Quality Winsor & Newton or similar. Winsor & Newton is the brand most commonly used by Kew Artists. A limited palette is recommended, using 2 x of each primary colour (yellow, red, blue) In the Winsor & Newton Artists/Professional' Quality. Each primary represents a "cool" or "warm" version. An example **primary palette** is:

Cadmium Yellow,* Cadmium Lemon,* Cadmium Red*, Permanent Alizarin Crimson, French Ultramarine, Winsor Blue Green Shade.

*Please note: cadmium colours are being phased out, so "cadmium free" versions of these are now available. You can also substitute with Winsor Yellow/Winsor Lemon, Aureolin, Indian Yellow, Winsor Red

Plus: Payne's Grey, Winsor Violet, Permanent Rose, Permanent Sap Green

Students with existing watercolour paints can use what they already have, provided they are of good quality.

Please research similar primaries in other good quality brands (eg. Daniel Smith, Schminke) if you wish to use them.

Please choose *lightfast pigments* of good *permanence*.

Small amounts of the watercolour palette colours will be available in the Beginners' Class for students to try out and use.

Watercolour paper - a smooth surfaced paper (Hot Press or HP) of good quality and weight (minimum 300gsm – grams/square metre) is recommended. *There have been quality issues with papers previously favoured by botanical artists* in the past few years, which are still unresolved.

We currently recommend: Saunders Waterford HP "high white" 300gsm ; Fabriano 5 300gsm (occasionally of varied quality); Arches Satine 300gsm.

Minimum 2 x A3 or 3 x A4 or similar size.

Small amounts of watercolour paper will be available to test and try in the Beginners Class.

Brushes

1. A round watercolour brush/es made from either sable hair or synthetic.

We recommend a Winsor & Newton "Series 7," Size 1 sable brush for general use.

The equivalent size and shape in a synthetic brush is a Daler Rowney "gold taklon" Round, no. 2 or 3.

Extra: a smaller size such as 00 or 0, and a larger size such as 3 or 4 W&N Series 7 or equivalent. Larger brushes are recommended for the Botanical Sketchbook course.

2. A "flat shader," synthetic brush, size 1 or 2.

3. Any synthetic round brush for mixing up colours on the palette.

Palette – a ceramic palette, flat or with wells; or a white ceramic plate, for mixing and diluting paints before application.

3. PEN AND INK

You will need the DRAWING set of materials outlined in no. 1, plus:

Ink pens – a set of different sizes of *lightfast and waterproof* fineliner pens from brands such as: Pigma Micron, Unipin, Derwent Graphic, Steadtler; minimum 3 sizes including: 005, 01, 02. These pens are often available in sets containing a good range of sizes; OR

A set of different sizes of “Rotring” rapidograph or “Rotring” isograph pens, sizes 0.13, 0.18, 0.25. These are expensive so you may wish to upgrade to these if moving through Intermediate and/or Advanced classes. You will be able to see the tutor using these in the Beginners class beforehand.

Smooth paper - “bristol board” 250gsm, various brands, loose or in a pad. 2 x A3 sheets for Beginners, 3 x A3 Intermediate/Advanced.

Small amounts of Bristol board will be available to test and try in the Beginners Class