



Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens
Botanical Art & Illustration Certificate Program

Course: Detailed Nature Studies in Pen & Ink & Wash

Instructor: Sarah Morrish

Instructor's email: info@illustratingnaturesdetails.com

The following is a list of materials and equipment that I recommend when attending workshops where pen and ink is the main media.

Supplies:

Pens –

Fine line pens: Pigma Micron (black or sepia) 003, 005 and 01 nib sizes. They are also available in light gray and cool light gray in 005 and 01 nib sizes.

Technical Drawing Pens: This refers to pens such as the Rotring Isograph and Rapidograph. These pens require some financial investment to purchase, and also maintenance to ensure they run smoothly, if they are not to be used regularly. They are fantastic pens to use for detailed pen and ink work, but I only recommend these when you have gained more experience when working in pen and ink. If you do use these and are travelling by air to a workshop, please make sure you transport your pens without cartridges and ink in them, preferably sealed in a plastic bags within your hold luggage. This is because they can be effected by air pressure. Suitable nib sizes are: 0.10, 0.18, 0.25, 0.35.

Dip Pens: There are a huge number of dip pen nibs available to use for illustration and I have spent a long time sourcing nibs that suit the way I work. So my choice of nibs may not suit everybody. My favoured nibs are: Zebra Maru mapping nib – can achieve extremely fine lines with this nib and the Zebra G nib for general drawing. These nibs fit in the Tachikawa T-40 Rubber grip pen holder.

Other recommended nibs include: Leonardt ballpoint nib DP300- a general writing nib but good for drawing and sketching. Leonardt general drawing nib- great for sketching. Leonardt Copperplate 2 III EF – good for fine marks and line-making. These nibs fit within a standard dip pen holder.

Ink: I use good quality archival ink such as Indian ink that is highly pigmented. Acrylic ink can also be suitable to use. Fountain pen ink is not suitable for using with dip pen nibs as it is too thin in consistency.

Paper: Bristol board/paper is best for pen and ink drawing, particularly with dip pens. I recommend Strathmore 400 series Bristol in Vellum or Smooth surface. The Strathmore 500 series Bristol in plate surface (ultra smooth) is my favoured paper due to its archival properties. Alternatively hot press watercolour paper can be used.

Tracing or layout paper can also be useful at the planning stage of a composition.

Other materials: 2H or H graphite pencil, plastic eraser, kneadable eraser, ruler, dividers to use for measuring.

Watercolours:

In addition, students will need to have a selection of watercolours that are generally used for botanical painting. I am not stating specifically what colours to use as I know many have a range of watercolours already. They must not include any opaque pigments in this instance. Good quality brushes are advised along with hot press water colour paper.

Art Supply:

Artists and Craftsman Supply
5603 Hobart St, Pittsburgh, PA 15217
(412) 421-3002

Blick Art Supplies
5534 Walnut St, Pittsburgh, PA 15232
(412) 432-1945
1 (800) 828-4548

Cheap Joe's Art Stuff
374 Industrial Park Dr.
Boone, NC 28607
(888) 792-6089

Jerry's Artarama
538 Farragut St.
Greensboro, NC 27406
1-800-827-8478