



Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens
Botanical Art & Illustration Certificate Program

Course: Fungi in Watercolor: Understanding Structure and Painting Techniques

Instructor: Margaret Saylor

Instructor's email: studio@margaretsaylor.com

Supplies:

Hot press watercolor paper: either a sheet, block, or bound in a sketchbook format; brand is entirely up to the artist

Watercolors and palette: a basic 6 color palette of paint will get you started (assembled by color bias - ex a green yellow (Lemon Yellow) and a orange yellow (New Gamboge); a red blue (French Ultramarine) and a green blue (Cerulean); and a blue red (Permanent Magenta) and a orange red (Scarlet Lake).

Additional fungi colors I recommend are Perylene Maroon, Yellow Ochre, and Winsor Violet or French Ultramarine Blue.

Even more useful are Shadow Violet and Moonglow. Your watercolor palette should offer colors that are riffs on primary colors.

Brands I prefer are W&N and Daniel Smith.

Brushes: This is the most important tool in your kit. I prefer the Raphael 8408 Kolinsky Sable #4 or the DaVinci Maestro Series long point Kolinsky Sable #4

Tracing paper; pencils; erasers; the usual supplies you need in order to draw

A Fungi guidebook specific to your greater geographic area

For the first class, students will need foraged fungi or a photo of fungi (that they have taken themselves or is copyright free).

To photograph mushrooms: Set your phone camera lens-end down next to the subject for a slug's eye view. Either print it in B/W or upload and print to photographic paper for proper color.

To forage: Dig up entire mushroom, place into a wax paper or brown paper bag, mark DO NOT EAT XXX, and place in the refrigerator for a day or two. Harvest close to the first class. We'll cover all this in class but if you want to get started, this is how you do it.

Alternatively, buy mushrooms from the farmers market or grocery store.