



Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens  
Botanical Art & Illustration Certificate Program

**Course:** Watercolor II

**Instructor:** Brenda Jordan

**Instructor's email:** [jordanb@pitt.edu](mailto:jordanb@pitt.edu)

**Supplies:**

**Required Paper:** Fabriano Artistico 100% cotton, extra white HOT press watercolor paper. 140 lb. (Be sure to ask if this is new stock, manufactured in the last year or two, not earlier!)

Can be purchased as large single sheets or in blocks in various sizes, such as 9 x 12; recommend at least the 9 x 12 size, and use a larger size such as 11 x 14 for your final project.

Note: the quality of your paper is probably your most important item for botanical watercolor. Papers of different brands or cotton content will yield different results. Avoid anything that is NOT 100% cotton.

For Watercolor II, you can also bring some other brands of papers if you wish to experiment. If you move up to 300 lb paper, try something like Strathmore Waterford.

Bring: scraps of Fabriano Artistico paper cut into strips for use in color matching.

**Paints:** Winsor and Newton Cotman Watercolours **in tubes** and L'Aquarelle Sennelier French Watercolors **in tubes** (for the colors listed below)

Note: The Cotman paints are above student grade but below professional grade, so will save you some money. The L'Aquarelle Sennelier colors are more expensive but well worth it. You can also use Daniel Smith tube paints, which can be purchased in small tubes (thus, again, saving some money). Please use **tube paints**.

(The Sennelier colors have honey in them and are lovely and smooth in application.)

Ultramarine Blue  
L'Aquarelle Phthalo Blue  
Cobalt Blue  
Alizarin Crimson  
L'Aquarelle Sennelier Red  
L'Aquarelle Lemon Yellow  
L'Aquarelle Sennelier Yellow Deep  
Burnt Umber  
Burnt Sienna  
Sap Green

For Watercolor II, you can add other colors of your choice. We will mostly be working with greens, greys, reds, and violet/purples.

Some suggestions: Indigo (good for creating very dark colors), Cerulean Blue (lovely sky blue color), Primrose (lovely pinkish color for flowers), Helios Purple and/or Dioxazine Purple (really useful for saturated bright purples and violets)

**Brushes:** synthetic sable rounds, professional grade (but not necessary to get the top of the line or real sable as these are expensive)

Nos. 2, 4, 6, 8, 12. You may wish to add a No. 3 or a Liner (very good for working with fine details).

Also: purchase a small flat synthetic brush that you can use to soften or eliminate “whoopsies.” I use a No. 6 Princeton Shader or a No. 4 Bright Shader, but any smaller flat brush will do.

Also bring an old flat or round brush for mixing colors. Do not mix with your good brushes.

**Palette** (any plastic or ceramic palette is fine as long as you have wells for the paint and space to mix colors; *don't purchase a small one*, however) You may also need an old white dinner plate to use for mixing paints (most round palettes don't have enough space for mixing paints).

Note: the plastic palettes don't seem to play well with watercolor when they are new. You may be happier with ceramic.

**Plant specimens for online course:**

**First class:** a bunch of green onions (make sure some or all have some roots)

**Second class:** green onions (fresh; 3-5 good specimens); a red tomato; a couple of cherry tomatoes

**Third class:** a round tomato and an Asian/Japanese eggplant (or use the photos that I put on the Google Classroom)

Carrier/box for your brushes (you can use a wicker or reed table mat, for example)

ALSO BRING as in Watercolor I:

Two clear glass water jars

A couple of small jars/containers for mixing larger amounts of paint

Roll of kitchen towels

Recommended for Watercolor II: old kitchen or hand towel that can be stained with paint

AND---

From the Botanical I and II classes:

**Pencil:** HB pencil and pencil sharpener

Plastic Eraser

Kneaded Eraser

Plastic Eraser in pencil form (optional but very handy for small areas)

Drawing board with clip

Drawing paper (11 x 14 inch)

Tracing paper

Magnifying glass

Ruler

X-acto knife

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