



Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens  
Botanical Art & Illustration Certificate Program

**Course:** Watercolor III: Special Topics

**Instructor:** Brenda Jordan

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

**Supplies:**

**Required Paper:** 100% cotton, white HOT press watercolor paper.  
Recommended: Saunders Waterford 300 lb. or Fabriano Artistica 300 lb.  
You can purchase one sheet and cut it up into smaller sections for our studies and final project. (You may also use 140 lb. paper if the price of the 300 lb. doesn't fit your budget.)

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 and only use HOT press, please.

Bring: scraps of any watercolor paper cut into strips for use in color matching.

**Paints:** You are ready to move up to Professional Grade tube colors. The colors below are the ones I will be using to mix blacks. Please purchase at least some of these; Daniel Smith brand can come in small tubes, thus saving you some money. Suggested brands: L'Aquarelle, Daniel Smith, Windsor Newton.

Suggest you purchase some Sennelier colors as they contain honey and are rich and creamy.

Ultramarine Blue  
L'Aquarelle Phthalo Blue  
Cobalt Blue  
Alizarin Crimson  
L'Aquarelle Sennelier Red  
L'Aquarelle Lemon Yellow

L'Aquarelle Sennelier Yellow Deep  
Indigo  
Burnt Sienna  
Burnt Umber

**Brushes:** synthetic sable rounds, good quality. I recommend synthetic in the interest of environmental sustainability. The best synthetic sables are quite good.

New list of brushes: Nos. 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 12 and a liner. Be sure you also have a mixing brush (any old flat brush works for this) and an “eradicator” (I use a No. 4 flat shader).

**Palette** (any plastic or ceramic palette is fine as long as you have wells for the paint and space to mix colors; *don't use a small one*, however)

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

Also recommended: small cups or bowls are useful for mixing large amounts of green or gray.

**Other:**

I will post color photographs and pencil drawn models for you to use in the class.

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

Two clear glass water jars or medium sized bowls

Roll of kitchen towels

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

AND---

From the Botanical I and II classes:

**Pencil:** 2H pencil, HB pencil and pencil sharpener

Plastic Eraser

Kneaded Eraser

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

Drawing board

Drawing paper if you need to draw your subjects and then transfer them with tracing paper

Tracing paper

Magnifying glass

Ruler

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