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Beautiful Botanicals: Traditions, Methods, and Materials

Sara Anne Hook

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Beautiful Botanicals: Traditions, Methods, and Materials

August 4, 2022, 10:00 a.m.

St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Indianapolis, Indiana

Description: For centuries, botanicals - flowers, leaves, fruit, vegetables - have been a favorite subject of artists around the world. The presentation will begin with a PowerPoint showcasing the history of botanical illustration - from ancient to modern - and the many methods and materials that have been used. Although watercolor has been the medium of choice for botanical artists, Professor Hook will cover some other interesting tools and techniques. Participants will have an opportunity to try some of Professor Hook's materials and will receive samples to take home. She is frugal, attempting to pare down her supplies to the minimum needed (and least messy).

About the Presenter: Sara Anne Hook is Professor Emerita at Indiana University and is currently pursuing her MFA in Creative Writing (poetry) at Butler University. She earned an online certificate in Botanical Illustration from Cornell University in 2015 and is a member of the American Society of Botanical Artists (ASBA) and the Sumi-e Society of America.

NOTE: The Indianapolis Public Library has most of the books on my list – and many others on these topics!

Favorite sources for botanical art/illustration:

American Society of Botanical Artists (ASBA), <https://asba-art.org/>, accessed 7/20/22.
(Quarterly journal, annual conference, grants, exhibitions, local chapters, competitions.)

Birch, Helen. *Just Draw Botanicals: Beautiful Botanical Art, Contemporary Artists, Modern Materials*. White Lion Publishing, 2020.

Cardaci, Diane. *Flowers & Botanicals*. Walter Foster, 2011.

Hollender, Wendy. *Botanical Drawing in Color: A Basic Guide to Mastering Realistic Form and Naturalistic Color*. Watson-Guptill, 2010.

Hollender, Wendy. *The Joy of Botanical Drawing: A Step-by-step Guide to Drawing and Painting Flowers, Leaves, Fruit, and More*. Watson-Guptill, 2020.

King, Bente Starcke. *Beautiful Botanicals: Painting and Drawing Flowers and Plants*. North Light Books, 2004.

Ravet-Haevermans, Agathe. *The Art of Botanical Drawing: An Introductory Guide*. Timber Press, 2008.

Swan, Ann. *Botanical Portraits with Colored Pencil*. Hauppauge, NY: Barrons Educational Series, 2010.

Supplies: Michael's or United Art and Education

Vandra Pentecost, a faculty member at the Indianapolis Art Center, plans to teach an online course in botanical illustration through Gage Academy this fall. See <https://gageacademy.org/>, accessed 7/20/22.

Favorite sources for *sumi-e*:

Sumi-e Society of America (SSA): <https://www.sumiesociety.org/>, accessed 7/20/22. (Quarterly journal, annual conference and online workshops, local chapters, annual exhibition catalog, competitions.)

Lloyd-Davies, Virginia. *Sumi-e Painting: Master the Meditative Art of Japanese Brush Painting*. Walter Foster, 2019.

Mayhall, Yolanda. *The Sumi-e Book*. Watson-Guptill, 1989.

Okamoto, Naomi. *Japanese Ink Painting: The Art of Sumi-e*. Sterling Pub. Co., 1995.

Setton, Sungsook Hong. *The Spirit of the Brush: Chinese Brush Painting Techniques: Simplicity, Spirit, and Personal Journey*. Rockport, 2017.

Supplies: United Art and Education has two kinds of rice paper in two sizes, Chinese brushes (made of animal fur), sets of Chinese watercolor paint, bottles of black ink and ink sticks. I prefer to use regular watercolor brushes and watercolor paint. I like the Jack Richeson Watercolor Tablet Set, which has 12 colors and costs less than \$10.00.

Favorite sources for silverpoint (metalpoint):

There is a Facebook page for silverpoint fans, but I don't – and never have – had a Facebook account.

Artists who love silverpoint: Leonardo da Vinci, Albrecht Durer, Raphael, Joseph Stella (combined with colored pencil or crayon), Marsden Harley, Tom Otterness.

Contemporary botanical artists using silverpoint include Kandy Vermeer Phillips, <https://kvermeerphillips.com/>, accessed 7/20/22, and Margaret Fitzpatrick, <https://maggyfitzpatrick.co.uk/>, accessed 7/20/22.

Nicholas, Banjie Getsinger. *Silver Linings: Introduction to Silverpoint Drawing*. CreateSpace Independent Publishing, 2012.

Schwalb, Susan and Mazzullo, Tom. *Silverpoint and Metalpoint Drawing: A Complete Guide to the Medium*. Routledge, 2019.

Supplies: <https://silverpointweb.com/>, accessed 7/20/22. Recommended by everyone, fast service, excellent products. I purchased the pre-prepared paper, which you can use on both sides, and the styli (but you can make your own with a mechanical pencil and wire from a jewelry store or you can use a copper penny, old key, metal thimble, silver spoon, etc.).