

# PROSPECTUS: Botanical Illustration Course

## Learn Botanical Drawing and Painting

Develop the botanical drawing and painting techniques you need to grow confidently as a botanical artist or illustrator. This comprehensive course will guide you from foundational skills through to producing refined, professional-quality artwork.

The course supports your progression through carefully planned modules, practical exercises, and personalised feedback.

### Study From Anywhere

This course can be studied from the comfort of your own home, wherever you are in the world. Designed for flexible, it allows you to work at your own pace while receiving expert guidance from your tutor, Dianne Sutherland, who will support you throughout your Botanical Art journey.

### Who This Course Is For

- Artists seeking to earn new skills in botanical art and illustration
- Artists wishing to refine and improve botanical art and illustration skills
- Students aiming to work towards producing high quality botanical artwork
- Those comfortable with independent study and practical exercises of their own chosen subjects – this is not a ‘copying’ style course.
- Artist wishing to progress to further study or professional level work

No formal qualifications are required, although some basic drawing or painting experience is beneficial. You will be asked to submit an image of previous work but this does not have to be botanical. For absolute Beginners, consider the Beginners: Starting Small Course, instead

### See Examples

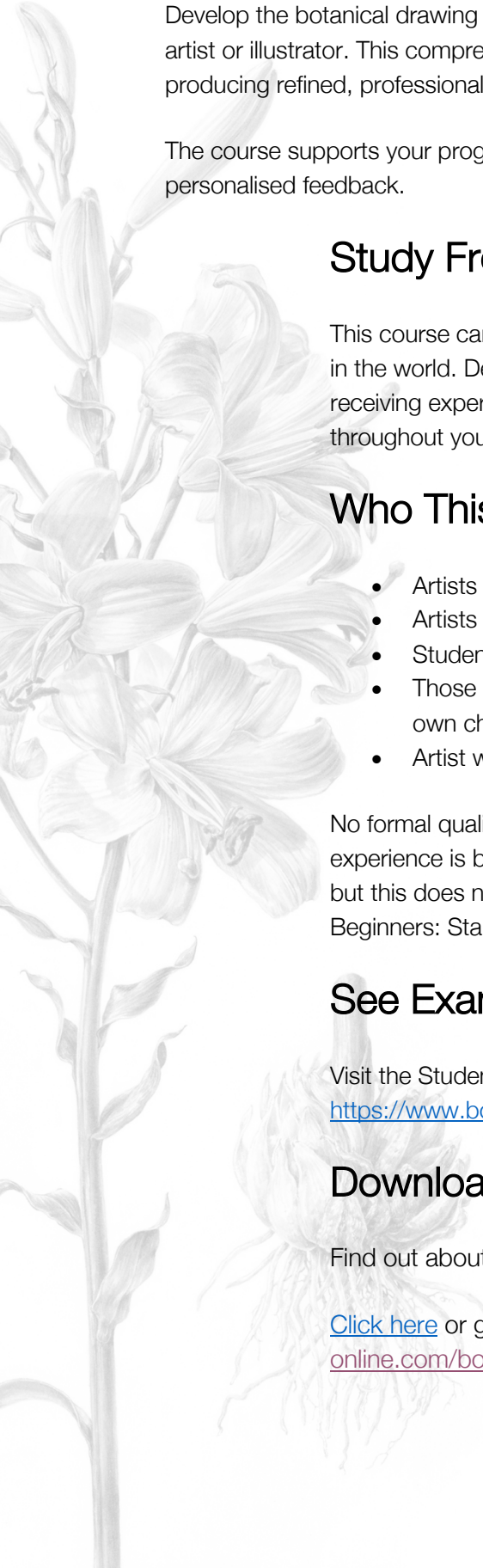
Visit the Student Gallery for examples of previous students work:

<https://www.botanicalart-online.com/student-gallery>

### Download the Suggested Materials List

Find out about materials and equipment needed for the course

[Click here](#) or go to the Course Webpage <https://www.botanicalart-online.com/botanical-illustration> where you can also book



## Course Structure: In Brief

The course is divided into two modules, with a total of eight tutor-assessed assignments, alongside a wide range of supporting exercises and supplementary activities.

### Module 1: Graphite

Build essential drawing skills that underpin all successful botanical art.

- Fundamental Drawing Techniques, line and tone using graphite
- Introduction of ink techniques – optional (new for June 2026)
- Study pages and compositional planning
- Final graphite or ink botanical drawing

You will develop:

- Measured drawing techniques
- Tonal rendering using hatching, cross-hatching, stippling and continuous tone
- Observational skills through leaves, flowers, and plant structures
- Understanding of form, light, and perspective

This module culminates in a final tonal botanical illustration in graphite or ink supported by preparatory study pages of the same subject

### Module 2: Painting

Apply your drawing skills to colour through structured watercolour techniques.

- Core watercolour techniques: washes, layering and dry brush
- Colour mixing using a limited palette
- Creation of a Leaf Library
- Creation of a Flower Library
- Study page and composition development
- Final watercolour botanical painting

You will explore:

- Accurate colour matching
- Botanical subjects in detail, including leaves, stems, fruit and flowers and dissections
- Composition and layout for a final illustration

The module concludes with a completed botanical artwork in watercolour, demonstrating your full range of skills.



## The Assessments:

The course includes a series of 8 structured, tutor-assessed assignments designed to build your skills progressively in both graphite and watercolour, from 2026 some parts can also be completed using ink.

### Graphite Assignments

1. **Line and Tone Drawing Techniques**

Complete a series of eight exercises exploring key graphite techniques, including hatching, cross-hatching, stippling and continuous tone.

You may also choose to incorporate ink (new option) for selected exercises.

2. **Study Page and Composition Development**

Create a detailed annotated study page based on a chosen subject. This should be supported by:

- A written plant description
- Reference photographs of the subject

You will also submit a composition draft for feedback before proceeding to your final drawing.

3. **Final Graphite Botanical Illustration**

Produce a resolved botanical illustration demonstrating your observational and tonal skills. This final piece may alternatively be completed in ink if preferred.

### Watercolour Assignments

1. **Watercolour Techniques**

Learn and apply essential wet and dry watercolour techniques through a series of exercises, followed by two small practical studies.

2. **Flower Library**

Create a collection of up to 5 flower studies, exploring variation in form, structure, and colour.

3. **Leaf Library**

Paint up to 5 leaf studies, demonstrating diversity in shape, texture, and tonal variation.

4. **Study Page and Composition Development**

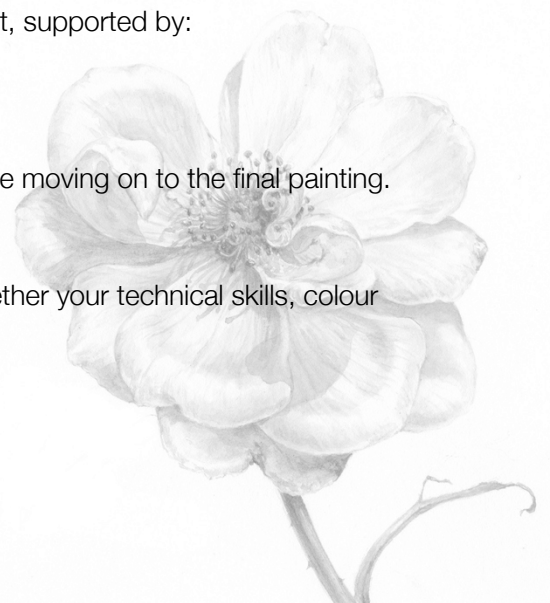
Create an annotated colour study page for a chosen subject, supported by:

- A written plant description
- Reference photographs

A composition draft must be submitted and approved before moving on to the final painting.

5. **Final Watercolour Botanical Illustration**

Complete a fully resolved botanical painting that brings together your technical skills, colour understanding, and compositional ability.



## Course Duration and Access

The course is designed to fit around your life and commitments with up to 27 months to complete

- Typical completion time: 12–18 months
    - Delivered via a password protected dedicated website:  
[www.botanicalartcourses.com](http://www.botanicalartcourses.com)
    - Downloadable worksheets with exercises and resources
    - Extensive online content with video library
    - An additional password protected blog for supplementary material and videos
  - This extended access period allows you to work at your own pace and revisit material as needed. Take breaks if necessary and return to your studies when ready
  - Extension options may be available - additional fee applies after access period of 27 months
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## Feedback and Support

You will receive ongoing support throughout your learning:

- Personalised written feedback for each assignment, with a 3-week turnaround
- Digital marking and visual guidance showing suggested improvements
- Opportunity to resubmit work after feedback
- Final appraisal with recommended next steps

Additional support includes:

- Email guidance throughout the course
  - Web chat facility
  - Optional video calls on request
  - Access to a password protected student blog,
  - Access to an Student Forum with your peer community
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## Additional Information

- **Start date:** 30 June 2026 (access given 20<sup>th</sup> June)
- **Course fee:** £595 (instalment option available)
- **Materials:** Suggested list provided
- **Technical requirements:** Internet access, downloading pdfs, email, and ability to photograph or scan work and send via email or WeTransfer or similar image transfer sites
- **Terms and Conditions:** Please before signing up for a course <https://www.botanicalart-online.com/online-courses>