

Why not join Sarah in her home studio for themed tuition sessions in botanical and natural history art?

Spring 2021



https://www.illustratingnaturesdetails.com/zoom-studio-sessions Email: info@illustratingnaturesdetails.com Each session lasts 2 hours and covers a set theme

Various media ~ watercolour ~ gouache ~ pen & ink ~ graphite pencil

'Live' demonstration time, presentations & other learning resources included

Question & answer times during each session

Dual camera view - tutor & work area

15 attendees maximum

Sessions take place on the Zoom meeting platform

Private access to the recorded session for 1 week after the session

Each session is carefully created to support you in your learning according to your skill level and give you the opportunity to focus on learning time just for you.

There will be clear aims and objectives given at the beginning of each session; guidance on the use of specific materials and equipment that are applicable to the theme and media; demonstration of techniques; a window onto the natural world helping you to connect to the subject matter and understand more about it to inform the development of your artwork; but most of all to have fun alongside others with a mutual interest.

#### Other useful information

You will need access to a computer and a good internet connection

You will need to download the Zoom Meetings platform which is free and be responsible for any technical issues that may occur. Sarah can not take responsibility for these or provide support in this area.

Each session is usually a 'stand-alone' session and this is not a structured course where individual feedback is provided after each session.

Payment is via the Paypal payment button on the dedicated web page for your chosen course using a Paypal account or your debit/credit card.

Once payment has been made you will receive a confirmation email within 24 hours, with further details of the Zoom Studio Session and its theme.

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# Introduction to Pen & Ink for Scientific Botanical Illustration

# Tuesday 26th January 2021

15.30-17.30 UK time



**Aim:** To understand the fundamentals that you need to know for illustrating botanical subjects in a scientific way.

**Objectives:** Experience why certain mark-making techniques are more appropriate than others.

See how these techniques can be used to create form texture and pattern in a botanical illustration.

Become familiar with the range of paper and pens that are most appropriate for this form of botanical illustration.

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**Equipment & materials:** As this is a 'show and tell' workshop session you do not necessarily need the following materials for the session itself, but they are given as a guide in case you wish to complete any of the exercises after it has ended.

**Pens:** Pigma micron fine line pens 005 and 01 in black. Rotring Isograph or Rapidograph technical pens (further guidance will be given on the use of these during the session). **Pencil:** H grade of pencil. **Eraser:** Plastic eraser. Kneadable eraser. **Paper:** Tracing paper or drafting film. Glassine paper or other paper to rest hand on whilst working. Strathmore Bristol 500 series plate surface.

If you have any further questions feel free to email Sarah:



# Making the most of your botanical sketchbook

# Tuesday 16th February 2021 15.30-17.30 UK time

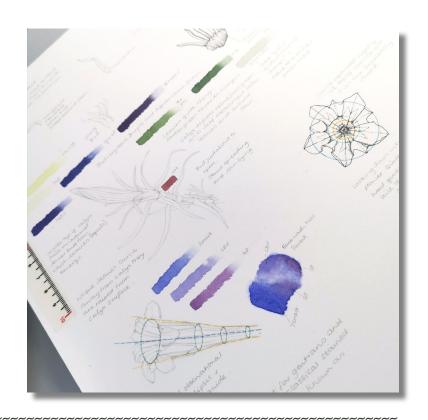
**Aim:** To identify how to utilise your sketchbook to the full, enabling accurate recording of information in writing and illustration, as well as other ways of collecting reference materials.

**Objectives:** To compare and contrast different sketchbooks to suit botanical art work.

Recognising which botanical features to record and in what order.

Demonstrate how to preserve and present plant samples in your sketchbook.

Show how to record written information and measurements.



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**Equipment & materials:** As this is a 'show and tell' workshop session you do not necessarily need all of the following materials for the session itself, but they are given as a guide in case you wish to complete any of the exercises after it has ended.

Please refer to the 'Suggested Materials & Equipment' handbook for further information, which will be sent along with this information sheet.

You will also receive a PDF digital download providing a summary of the information covered within the session.

If you have any further questions feel free to email Sarah:



# Zoom Studio Sessions Using a dip-pen for sketching nature Tuesday 25th February 2021 15.30-17.30 UK time

**Aim:** To demonstrate the suitability of different dip-pen nibs for drawing natural subjects.

**Objectives:** To provide examples of different dip-pen nibs in use and assessing their advantages and disadvantages.

Encouraging drawing confidence through mark-making exercises using dip-pens.

Comparing and contrasting different papers and inks to sue with dip-pens.



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**Equipment & materials:** As this is a 'show and tell' workshop session you do not necessarily need the following materials for the session itself, but they are given as a guide in case you wish to complete any of the exercises after it has ended.

**Dip-pen nib options:** Leonardt 300 ballpoint nib, Leonardt general drawing nib and the required nib holder. **Paper:** Strathmore Bristol 400 or 500 series vellum or plate surface. **Inks:** Black Indian ink or good quality acrylic ink. Sarah will also be showing other nib, paper and ink options.

If you have any further questions feel free to email Sarah:



# Drawing & Painting Items from the Nature Box ~ Shells & Stones

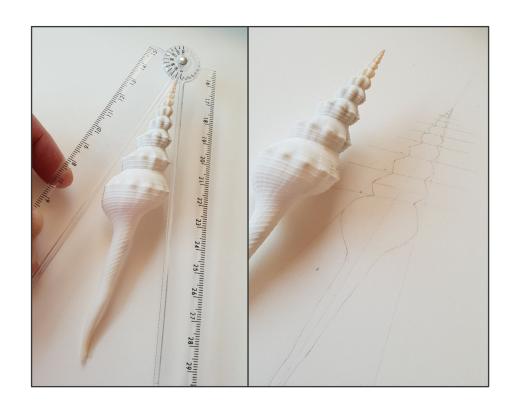
#### Tuesday 9th March 2021

15.30-17.30 UK time

**Aims:** To draw and paint a selection of shells and stones.

**Objectives:** To use structured drawing techniques to understand and replicate the structure of shells that can at first appear complex.

Explore colour-mixing and painting techniques and to experience the benefits of using granulating colours, to produce accurate colours, pattern and texture.



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**Equipment & materials:** As this is a 'show and tell' workshop session you do not necessarily need all of the following materials for the session itself, but they are given as a guide in case you wish to complete any of the exercises after it has ended.

Please refer to the 'Suggested Materials & Equipment' handbook for further information, which will be sent along with this information sheet.

Further information about more specific materials Sarah will be using during the session, will be emailed to you a week before the session date.

If you have any further questions feel free to email Sarah:



# Drawing & Painting Items from the Nature Box ~ Beetles

### Tuesday 16th March 2021

15.30-17.30 UK time

**Aims:** To draw a detailed and accurate illustration of a beetle.

To replicate the colours of the chosen beetle.

**Objectives:** To use structured drawing techniques to understand and replicate the physical features of a beetle accurately.

Explore colour-mixing and painting techniques to produce accurate colours and to portray shine and luminosity.



Each session is carefully created to support you in your learning according to your skill level and give you the opportunity to focus on learning time just for you. During the live demo and presentation part of the session you will be asked to mute your microphones and time will be set aside for questions and answers. The session will be recorded and once processed a link will be emailed to you with a password to enable you to access the video for one week after the session has taken place.

**Equipment & materials:** As this is a 'show and tell' workshop session you do not necessarily need all of the following materials for the session itself, but they are given as a guide in case you wish to complete any of the exercises after it has ended.

Please refer to the 'Suggested Materials & Equipment' handbook for further information, which will be sent along with this information sheet.

For this session a selection of image files of subject matter will be shared with you, for you to use as reference if you wish. These will be emailed to you a week before the session date.

If you have any further questions feel free to email Sarah:



# Drawing & Painting Items from the Nature Box ~ Fossils

## Monday 12th April 2021 15.30-17.30 UK time

**Aims:** To draw and paint a selection of fossils.

**Objectives:** To explore the varying structure of fossils prior to following the drawing process.

Replicate the form of each fossil recognising how the light interacts with the subject.

Then creating a range of tonal values using graphite pencil and shading techniques, followed by a subtle watercolour wash in places.



Each session is carefully created to support you in your learning according to your skill level and give you the opportunity to focus on learning time just for you. During the live demo and presentation part of the session you will be asked to mute your microphones and time will be set aside for questions and answers. The session will be recorded and once processed a link will be emailed to you with a password to enable you to access the video for one week after the session has taken place.

**Equipment & materials:** As this is a 'show and tell' workshop session you do not necessarily need all of the following materials for the session itself, but they are given as a guide in case you wish to complete any of the exercises after it has ended.

Please refer to the 'Suggested Materials & Equipment' handbook for further information, which will be sent along with this information sheet.

Further information about more specific materials Sarah will be using during the session, will be emailed to you a week before the session date.

If you have any further questions feel free to email Sarah:



#### Suggested Materials & Equipment

This information provides an overview of the materials that I use for botanical and natural history art and is meant as a guide only. I share this with many of my course attendees, both for 'in-person' workshops and online. For workshops and courses on specific themes, separate materials may be required that are not listed below.

#### **Watercolour Paper**

I use hot-pressed paper as this has a very smooth surface which helps considerably when painting and portraying fine details. The majority of the time I use paper of a medium weight 140lb (300gsm) 100% cotton, but I do also sometimes use a heavier weight paper of 300lb (600gsm). My preferred hot-pressed papers are Fluid 100 and occasionally Winsor & Newton Professional Watercolour paper.

I also use cold-pressed paper at times and this also includes Fluid 100 and Khadi paper.

#### Paper for Pen and Ink and also Graphite work

Hot-pressed paper can be used for pen and ink work, but my preference is to use Bristol paper/board which has a very smooth surface. I use Strathmore Bristol in 400 or 500 series, the latter being 100% cotton and archival. Vellum surface has a very slight tooth and works well for graphite tonal work and plate surface is most suitable for pen and ink work as it is ultra-smooth.

#### **Sketchbooks**

For practise and research you may want to complete some of your work in a sketchbook. I try to choose a sketchbook with a smooth surface paper that is as near to the weight of watercolour paper as possible. There are several sketchbooks available with such papers including Stilman and Birn Zeta series and also the Amelie Watercolour Matt sketchbook (from Pink Pig in the UK). Hardbound sketchbooks that completely open work well, so you can work across both pages or spiral bound sketchbooks are an alternative. I work in both A3 and A4 sketchbooks.

#### **Brushes**

There are now many reasonably priced brushes on the market that are of a sable and synthetic blend or if you prefer a fully synthetic blend for ethical reasons. These provide a cheaper option than pure sable brushes, and if they are cared for properly, will last for a long period of time. A good quality brush will hold a lot of paint and will keep its shape after each brush stroke.

You may find that two brushes labelled the same size, made by different manufacturers will have different length tips, this can sometimes be misleading to the beginner or less-experienced artist. The reason being that the quantity of paint that they hold may differ, which can either be an advantage or disadvantage, depending on your painting style.

The size brushes that I would recommend are:

Sizes 6 and 4 – for painting initial washes.

Sizes 3 and 2 – for fine detail.

Size 2 – spotter or miniature painting brush

Size 0 – Filbert cat's tongue brush (Rosemary & Co)

An easier and more reasonably priced option is to purchase the Natures Details Brush Set directly from Sarah or from Rosemary & Co - British brush makers <a href="http://www.rosemaryandco.com/gift-sets/sarah-morrish-natures-details-set">http://www.rosemaryandco.com/gift-sets/sarah-morrish-natures-details-set</a>. This includes 4 different size brushes, which will cover all of your botanical and natural history painting needs.

#### **Paints**

I always recommend Artist's Watercolour Paints which are made with better quality pigments and less binder therefore they are more pure in colour and translucency than Student Quality Watercolour Paints. It is better to have a few best quality paints rather than lots of inferior paints that don't allow you to get the results you should be getting with your painting.

I generally work with a palette that consists of warm and cool options of each colour. I call this my foundation palette and is the one I use for teaching. As time goes on and you become more familiar with paint qualities and properties, you can then add to your range of colours.



#### **Foundation Palette**

Cool colours – Hansa yellow light (DS), Quinacridone magenta (WN), Quinacridone rose (DS), Carmine (DS) or Anthraquinoid red (DS), Manganese blue hue (DS), Winsor blue green shade (WN)

Mid-colours – Cobalt blue (DS)

Warm colours – Indian yellow (DS), Permanent yellow deep (DS), Quinacridone gold (DS), Organic vermillion (DS), Perylene scarlet (DS), Perylene maroon (DS), French ultramarine finest (SCH), Indanthrone blue (DS)

Other useful, but not essential colours Buff titanium (DS), Jaune brilliant No.1 (HOL) DS=Daniel Smith WN=Winsor & Newton SCH=Schminke HOL=Holbein

#### **Pencils**

For a looser style of sketching I sometimes use 2B or B graphite pencils.

For a general more refined line drawing I use F, H or 2H graphite pencils.

For those workshops where graphite tonal work may be completed, a range of graphite pencils will be needed. The recommended range is from 2H to 5B. The recommended pencils are Faber Castell 9000 and the range is available in the Faber Castell Design Set (not the Art Set).

#### **Pens**

There are a wide range of pens available to use for pen and ink drawing. The most convenient are fine line pens which are disposable when finished and are very affordable. It is advantageous to make sure that the ink contained within is waterproof once dry.

The best colour ink to use is black or sepia and it is beneficial to use a range of nib sizes. Pigma Micron pens are available in these colours. Recommended nib sizes are 003, 005 and 01. Another suitable make of pen is Unipin.



#### **Erasers**

I prefer to use a plastic eraser as they can be cut to a fine point to rub out fine detail, and they are also easier to keep clean than a putty rubber.

Tombow Mono Zero are finely shaped retractable plastic erasers that are ideal for erasing small areas of detail.

An additional useful eraser is the Faber Castell kneadable eraser, great for erasing heavy pencil lines without damaging the paper surface.

# Softy Model Anti-Caster Anti

#### Other useful items

Cotton cloth or kitchen roll

x2 medium to large water jars

Drawing board (light weight mdf or plywood)

Masking tape

Cartridge paper ('heavy weight' preferable) or sketchbook

Plastic pipettes (x2)

Container to hold plant specimen in place (if needed)

Scissors and craft knife

Magnifying glass

Dividers

If needed, I will detail more specific material and equipment requirements in the workshop/session information sheet.



