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# COLOUR & COMPOSITION

*with MARGARET BEST*

[www.bestbotanical.com](http://www.bestbotanical.com)

The term **COMPOSITION** means “deliberate placement” or “putting together” using conscious thought. It applies to all art forms - music, sculpture, painting and the written or spoken word.

Rarely does Mother Nature present an immediate, perfect composition for a botanical painting. Furthermore, after seeking and finding an exciting specimen in terms of colour and structure, making the first mark on the stark blankness of the paper is often rather daunting.

So where should you start? How can you ensure your plant study will appear natural and not contrived? Where should you place the key components that will provide accurate plant identification as well as a visually appealing result? The options start to turn over in your mind ...

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In a 2-day weekend workshop, Margaret Best will offer you a variety of ways of approaching the challenge of achieving a satisfying botanical composition - regardless of your chosen colour medium. The goal of the workshop is for you to start an entirely new subject from scratch, to consider a range of ideas you have not tried before and to be open to thinking more creatively. In the process of finding a unique way of organizing the important elements, you will also explore the role played by colour and colour values in achieving a successful result.

In her own work, Margaret paints in a traditional botanical style working directly from a specimen. Many years of art teaching has enabled her to readily identify the skill level of workshop participants and to provide meaningful ways of stimulating progression and advancement to a higher level. This learning opportunity is open to all BAC members regardless of technical skills in colour application, however, it will be assumed that those attending already have some **competence in drawing**.



In addition to watercolour, Margaret has experience in teaching and using coloured pencil and is happy to provide registrants with information about her personal palette of colours in both of these mediums. She will also share information about her preferred papers, brushes etc. For this workshop you should bring your own favourite supplies to the class - there is no need to purchase a long list of materials that you have not used before.

In order to spark the creative process, it is important for you to be inspired by your subject, so you are required to make that selection in advance and to bring it with you. To maximize on the learning experience, it is highly recommended that you become acquainted with the specimen by drawing all or some of the parts at different angles in a sketch book **before** coming to the workshop. If you do not do this ahead of class time, it is important to note that you will possibly not be in a position to apply much in the way of colour.