

## **Books for Botanical Art**

- Keith West**      *How to Draw Plants: The techniques of botanical illustration* (1988)  
[This is a classic with all kinds of very useful botanical information as well as techniques.]
- Keith West**      *Painting Plant Portraits: A step-by-step guide* (1991)  
[This is best guide I have used on watercolour painting of plants.]
- Ann Swan**      *Botanical Portraits with Colored Pencils* (2010)  
[Excellent primer for working with coloured pencils.]
- Wendy Hollender**      *Botanical Drawing in Color: A Basic Guide to Mastering Realistic Form and Naturalistic Color* (2010)  
[Excellent – she covers a lot of the same things that Ann Swan deals with but uses a different palette.]
- Bente Starcke King**      *Beautiful Botanicals: Painting and drawing flowers and plants* (2004)  
[I particularly love this book because she is so straight-forward and a real teacher – and her subjects are very familiar because she worked for many years at Cornell (Ithaca) so a lot of the plants she draws we see in Ontario.]
- Clare Walker Leslie**      *Nature Drawing: A Tool for Learning* (1980)  
[This book got me keeping a year-round nature drawing diary – she covers a lot of basic techniques and goes beyond drawing plants – trees, birds, insects, animals, landscape.]
- Rosie Martin and Meriel Thurstan**  
*Botanical Illustration course with the Eden Project* (2006) and  
*Exotic Botanical Illustration with the Eden Project* (2012)  
[These books are fabulous – but focused on watercolour painting although they do cover coloured pencils as well. They include student drawings because they teach botanical art in Cornwall with the “Eden Project”]
- Billy Showell**      *Watercolour Fruit and Vegetable Portraits* (2009)  
[She inspired me to start growing the plants I want to draw because she includes the roots and leaves of her fruits and vegetables; great instruction on composition!]
- Sue Vize**      *Botanical Drawing using Graphite and Coloured Pencils* (2016)  
[This is my latest acquisition and I love it! She is really good on the subtle differences of graphite pencils and how to exploit the difference.]

There is also a lot of very useful information in the quarterly journal of the ASBA:

*The Botanical Artist: Journal of the American Society of Botanical Artists*  
[I became a member of ASBA in 2015 and I love receiving their journal – you learn about botanical art being done all over the world and they have terrific shows and conferences; I want to write a piece on Nellie Sue for this journal.]

NB: I have a lot of other fantastic books on botanical art but these ones are the most useful “how to do it” books.

**Mary Ann Scott**

*Botanical Sketchbook* (2010)

This book goes through the assignments given to artists who want to join the British Society for Botanical Artists (SBA). The works are primarily in watercolour. The author gives many tips for mixing colours to match plant colours.

**Eleanor B Wunderlich**

*Botanical Illustration in Watercolour* (1996)

I have had this book a long time and still refer to it. It has very good information on flower structure and on watercolour techniques.

**Sarah Simblet**

*Botany for the Artist* (2010)

This book focuses on the botanical side of botanical art. The author offers drawing classes of plant subjects, including leaves, flowers, seeds, roots, stems, etc. It also has some fabulous illustrations of historical botanical art.

**General Techniques**

**David Hornung**

*Color : a workshop for artists and designers*, second edition, published by Laurence King, London, UK

<sup>1</sup> Prepared by some members of the Botanical Artists of Canada for the Toronto Flower Market 2017, SF

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