

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden – Certificate in Botanical Illustration

Advanced Watercolor Instruction – Fruit and Vegetables

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Instructor – Betsy Lyon

betlyon@gmail.com

Welcome to the Advanced Watercolor Course. Our objective is to introduce you to painting fruit and vegetables. In order to achieve a realistic outcome you will need to understand volume, shape, shading and the vanishing edge. You may bring your own items to paint or use those provided. Pick a fruit or vegetable that could last the two weeks of the course before spoiling, if possible. You may want to buy/bring several pieces, if you want to do a cross section. It's even better if your fruit still has leaves and stem.

Take the time to look at the Old Master/Dutch Still Life Paintings, c. 17, 18 C. of fruit and vegetables. How did they achieve volume, texture, shine and moisture? We will attempt to learn how to put on a water drop.

Familiarize yourself with the early 19th Botanical Artist William Hooker and his work. Also familiarize yourself with the historical botanical work of fruit and vegetables by Pierre-Joseph Redoute, Augusta Innes Withers and Mark Catesby.

Recommended reading:

1. The Art of Botanical Painting. Margaret Stevens. Chapter 13-Painting Fruit and Chapter 14-Painting Vegetables.
2. Botany Illustrated. Janice Glimn-Lacy and Peter B, Kaufman, P. 39
3. Understanding the Flowering Plant. Anne L. D. Bebbington, Chapter 10, Fruits and Seeds and their Dispersal
4. Botanical Sketchbook. Mary Ann Scott, Chapter on Fruit, p.38; Chapter on Vegetables, p. 44.
5. Botany for Artists. Lizabeth Leech. Chapter 5, Fruit and Seeds.

Materials:

1. At least a half sheet of good paper that you normally do your final work on.
2. Scissors
3. Strathmore Bristol Drawing paper, smooth surface.
4. Your usual drawing and painting supplies, brushes.
5. Measuring equipment, ruler and calipers.
6. Not required but recommended: ¼ inch wide white artist tape. I will have some available.
7. Tracing paper or film.
8. Your fruit or vegetable. They need to be, at the minimum, the size of a lemon or lime; no grapes at this time.
9. If you want to share examples of works of fruit or vegetables that you have done in the past, they are welcome.

A book recommendation when building your library on botanical illustration.

1. The Kew Book of Botanical Illustration. Christabel King, Search Press, 2015.

I welcome ideas, suggestions and recommendations. If you have something to share, such as helpful books to look at, tips and techniques, etc. please let us know. Most of all, have fun!