

# The Art Of Botanical Drawing: An Introductory Guide



## Synopsis

The Art of Botanical Drawing is an introductory guide to the techniques of botanical painting and drawing. Beginning artists and gardeners looking to capture the beauty of the plants in their garden will learn how to recognize and draw a wide variety of flowers and leaves, including succulents, vegetables, trees, perennials, and grasses. Botanists and naturalists who need to understand the fundamentals of scientific illustration will also find the text useful. Lessons on recognizing and recreating the texture and structural elements of plants are also included. The Art of Botanical Drawing is practical and beautiful—it includes 150 charming color illustrations and the hands-on approach is accessible to even the most inexperienced budding artist.

## Book Information

Paperback: 96 pages

Publisher: Timber Press (February 18, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 9780881929904

ISBN-13: 978-0881929904

ASIN: 0881929905

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.4 x 10.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 37 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #441,746 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #96 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > Essays #389 in Books > Arts & Photography > History & Criticism > Themes > Plants & Animals #4595 in Books > Arts & Photography > Drawing

## Customer Reviews

This charmingly illustrated book is an ideal guide to the art of botanic drawing and painting. Agathe Ravet-Haevermans instructs the reader on how to recognize and draw a wide variety of flowers and leaves and covers the textures and structural elements of a range of different plants including succulents, vegetables, trees and grasses. Practical as well as beautiful, this book should be a welcome addition to the bookshelves of everyone interested in botanical art.

Agathe Ravet-Haevermans is a scientific illustrator and naturalist at the Museum of Natural History in Paris, where she also teaches botanical drawing to adults.

This book is especially superb. There is a very special reason why this is true. The book is truly written by an expert Botanical Drawer & Painter. Ms. Ravet-Haevemans' credentials are even more impeccable than her knowledge of drawing and painting Botanicals. I mention specifically Painting, because the author does mostly painting and her use of 'drawing' is mostly for her field work, not for her museum work. Yet the thing that makes the book unique is that the author makes virtually no assumptions about the reader. She assumes that the reader knows virtually nothing about drawing or painting and she goes from the basics all the way to the advanced stages in the art of rendering Botanical likenesses. What struck me, as a very uninitiated reader of her book, was her revelation that "Anyone can become a decent drawer or painter of Botanicals" by knowing just a few basic facts and techniques. She then goes on to inform the reader of how one uses basic shapes, ellipsis, cones, cylinders and a few others to render the botanicals. Then she explains how this is done. She then goes through shading, depth, volume, etc. Each of her lessons are intelligible and make the assumption that the reader really does not know what they are doing. In my case, that was accurate. Yet, what I did have a background in doing was drawing the basic forms that she describes via my classes in calculus and other arithmetic disciplines. Thus, while I had always considered myself one with a lack of small motor control, it turned out that by following the author's specific techniques and by practicing, I was indeed able to draw and even to start to paint Botanicals. While painting is fundamentally the same as drawing, the techniques take more coordination and more experience with mixing colors; as well as a significant investment in paints, brushes, cold or hot pressed watercolor papers and other equipment or supplies. The most expensive of these and the most important are probably the brushes, which are absolutely very different and probably serious painters should use ONLY Sable brushes rather than other furs or artificial brushes. One only has to use their very first Sable brush to realize that this is an absolute. In every regard, the book is painstakingly accurate and illuminating. I would very seriously recommend this book to any person, experienced or not at all, who is interested in drawing or painting Botanical images. The book is worth More than the cost and the advice is impressively excellent. With this book and good supplies, all one needs to do is practice, practice and practice and anyone, as the author says, can become at least a decent and serviceable drawer and even painter of Botanical images. The book is highly recommended for anyone seeking to develop the necessary skills to paint things that grow! I recommend this book without any equivocation!

You need a good set of watercolors and some experience in painting in order to use this book. I am an art hobbyist who is interested in drawing flowers and other plants, therefore, I thought this

"Introductory Guide" would be helpful to me. In fact, it is one of four such books that I recently bought from on this subject. (will post reviews on the other ones soon). While this book is at least as lovely as any of the others, it is actually all about watercolor painting. (Maybe it has something to do with the way the book was translated from the French?) I work in graphite, pen-and-ink, colored pencils, and, newly, pastels. When I do branch out to watercolor I plan to first use my 16 pan Prang set from when I was in school. Where the book discusses materials, it depicts a professional watercolor set of FIFTY-THREE pans, and also, watercolors in tubes, such as professionals use. I'm sure I will be drawing (I mean "painting") plants with my good school Prang set soon, but you really do need a wide variety of pigments in order to get the full benefit of this book. \*\*I just checked: such sets cost HUNDREDS of dollars\*\* On each beautiful two-page layout, a plant type is discussed (tiny type-face, though), gorgeous examples are shown, and a chart is presented with the names and swatches of the exact colors needed to render the subject. I've never seen this done, and it seems to be extraordinarily helpful. At the same time, this is no paint-by-number type of book, or one that teaches slavish copying. Another thing I love about this book is botanical information it provides. Seeing and painting living plants is one thing, but to understand them, their anatomy and other characteristics is to add understanding and meaning to art work, in my opinion. (I hope to purchase a large "botany for artists" book sometime, too.) Lovely book for watercolor artists. I don't think it is too short--there is plenty of information, and many types of plants and exercises. The type font is just rather small, especially when they use the script-style print. I can use my "readers glasses", but I can't do watercolors, so it was rather a waste for me.

Absolutely beautiful book with lots of instruction for watercolor. So glad I splurged!

Great book, clearly written, step by step everything is explained. Best book I've ever purchased on the topic. My drawing are better than ever and the compliments on my drawing keep coming in. I have gained not only knowledge but, also confidence in my drawing having purchased and read this book. Highly recommend- makes an awesome gift! I plan to give several to friends with a small set of pencils and a pad of paper!

This is a good book for beginners. Easy to understand.

I checked out this book in the library and knew I just had to have it. I liked the book because it clearly gives more information on plants than just showing you how to draw them. Yet I must say

that I love the way the drawings are gentle yet strong enough to define clearly the plant it identifies.

Great book. Well written. Worth the cost. Great book just to look at as well as teach botanical drawing.

The book is well done and easy to follow however some of the print is so small you can hardly read..

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