



Royal
Botanic Garden
Edinburgh

RBGE Certificate in Botanical Illustration 2019-20 Attended Course



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1. Course Overview

The RBGE Certificate in Botanical Illustration (CBI) is a great way to learn the fundamental techniques of paint and pencil. Using plants as our core subject this course is an ideal starting certificate if you want to become a botanical illustrator. The techniques you learn are valuable across all areas of illustration and seldom taught in art colleges or university art departments, so it is well suited to any developing artist.

There are many courses that teach botanical illustration, but this structured 10-day course consists of ten full-day taught units with assessment built into the programme within a standard framework. The focus is on the fundamental skills, and is taught by experienced and enthusiastic tutors.

The CBI can be taught as a two-week block course in July 2019, or a series of individual days spread over throughout the months from August 2019 - June 2020.

There is some theory provided to aid your understanding (in the form of short, highly visual presentations), but the course is designed to be delivered and assessed using a predominantly practical approach.

The RBGE Certificate in Botanical Illustration is a formally assessed course and therefore requires students to successfully pass assignments in order to achieve the award. Students are required to build up a course portfolio containing notes, visuals and exercises. This body of work will show progression and help develop skills leading to a final painted composition. Both the portfolio and the final piece will be assessed and the marks combined to provide the final grade. There is also an element of continuing self assessment and evaluation within the programme.

As a student on this course you can access the RBGE Library during open hours, Monday to Friday.

RBGE Diploma in Botanical Illustration



This course gives you all the skills required to join the RBGE Diploma in Botanical Illustration if you wish to take your studies to a professional level. Further details on the diploma can be found by visiting our website:

www.rbge.org.uk/dipbi

2. Dates and Tutors for 2019-20

2.1 Summer School Course

The CBI programme will be delivered at Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh as a ten-day block course over two weeks this summer. The days run from 10.00am to 4.00pm. Students who attend all ten sessions and successfully complete the assessments are awarded the RBGE Certificate in Botanical Illustration.

Unit Number	Title	Date
CBI-01	Context of Botanical Illustration and Drawing Exploration	15 July 2019
CBI-02	Drawing - Texture & Tone	16 July 2019
CBI-03	Modelling in 3D with paint	17 July 2019
CBI-04	Colour and Mixing Paint	18 July 2019
CBI-05	Introduction to Storyboard for Composition - Flowers & Buds	19 July 2019
CBI-06	Exploring Composition - Leaves	22 July 2019
CBI-07	Working on final Composition	23 July 2019
CBI-08	Working on final Composition	24 July 2019
CBI - 09	Working on final Composition and Review	25 July 2019
CBI - 10	Final hand in of all course work	26 July 2019



Sharon Tingey - Summer Course Tutor

Sharon Tingey is an RHS Gold Medal winning artist and illustrator, living and working in Edinburgh. She teaches various classes at RBGE, from beginners to advanced students, and enjoys everyone. She was involved with the RBGE Artists in Nepal project and with painting the spectacular flower of the Titan Arum. Which is now held in the nationally important collection of Dame Shirley Sherwood at the Sherwood Gallery in Kew Gardens. Sharon is currently involved with Perth council on a project illustrating Scottish heritage varieties of apples and pears. She is also a busy mum and cat owner.

2.2 Monthly Course

The CBI programme will be delivered at Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh from August 2019 – June 2020 with the individual units taking place on Saturdays from 10.00am to 4.00pm. Students who attend all ten sessions and successfully complete the assessments are awarded the RBGE Certificate in Botanical Illustration.

Unit Number	Title	Date
CBI-01	Context of Botanical Illustration and Drawing Exploration	31 Aug 2019
CBI-02	Drawing - Texture & Tone	05 Oct 2019
CBI-03	Modelling in 3D with paint	9 Nov 2019
CBI-04	Colour and Mixing Paint	7 Dec 2019
CBI-05	Introduction to Storyboard for Composition - Flowers & Buds	11 Jan 2020
CBI-06	Exploring Composition - Leaves	1 Feb 2020
CBI-07	Working on final Composition	29 Feb 2020
CBI-08	Working on final Composition	25 Apr 2020
CBI - 09	Working on final Composition and Review	9 May 2020
CBI - 10	Final hand in of all course work	13 Jun 2020



Sarah Roberts - Monthly Course Tutor

A graduate of the Diploma in Botanical Illustration, Sarah has been teaching at RBGE since 2014. Her botanical interests form part of her professional art practice which uses painting and illustration to help to think about our relationships with other organisms, and their relationships with the rest of the world. Her particular fondnesses are for plants, fungi, bacteria and slime moulds which may be overlooked, unseen or invisible. She makes artwork for exhibitions and publications, and likes to work collaboratively, travelling internationally to attend artists residencies doing fieldwork or joint projects, and teaching workshops and classes.

3. Assessment Methods

This is a predominantly practical course, designed to assess a practical level of understanding and competence. Candidates will be assessed in three ways:

3.1 Course Portfolio (40% of assessment marks)

You will be issued with a blank folder which you must then use to record the key knowledge points and all exercises from each unit, as well as the practical activities demonstrated and carried out during the course.

You are encouraged to include detailed notes, self analysis, diagrams, possibly photographs, labels and/or other information given to you during the course units. However, this is a 'practical' course and therefore you will be engaged for the most part in 'hands on' drawing and painting. The aim is that this is a working portfolio to which you can refer in the future, and will become an important part of the course.

After Day 4, tutors will carry out an interim review of the Portfolio.

All students must submit their Course Portfolio on the last day of the course for assessment.

3.2 Self-Assessment throughout the course including student Self-Assessment Chart (10%)

Each student is required to fill in a self-evaluation record at the end of each day of teaching. This is to enable the tutors to gauge your own understanding of progression during the course.

3.3 Working through Storyboard to achieve Final Composition (50%) Days 5-10

Using provided plant samples, students and tutors will discuss and experiment with compositional approaches and select the final composition to be used.

Beginning with pencil studies, the proposed image composition is agreed and transferred onto the final watercolour paper and the process of painting from base washes to fully rendered state follows.

Students are required to present their work, demonstrating that they have been able to meet the set criteria, given at the start of the course.

A level of skill, in association with the assessment criteria, is required to pass this course.

Final Day

On this day there will be completion and hand in of the Final Composition and Portfolios with the completed self-assessment charts. There will also be a group review of all the final painted compositions.

This is an essential undertaking and will also provide the students with advice and guidance for their future development.

Grading will consist of -

- An assessment of the course units through your portfolio of work
- An assessment of your final composition
- Analysis of your Student Assessment Chart
- Written tutor feedback to students.

3.4 Certification & Grading

Successful candidates will be awarded the '*RBGE Certificate in Botanical Illustration*', which will be graded as follows:

- Referral: 49%
- Pass: 50%-59%
- Merit: 60%-69%
- Distinction: 70% and above

NB: Referred candidates may retake the Final Composition Assessment but will only be able to gain a Pass.

The Course Portfolio will count for 40% of the final course mark, the Student Self-Assessment throughout the course including the Self-Assessment Chart 10% and the Final Composition 50%.

3.5. Common Themes

The following themes will be considered throughout all the modules.

- Observation
- Drawing with precision
- Materials and equipment
- Painting techniques
- Composition
- Sourcing information
- Understanding plants
- Keeping a portfolio

4. Course Fees

The cost for the course is £600. Full payment for the course is required on acceptance of a place.

5. Application Procedure

Spaces on this course are limited. Candidates will be selected on the basis of the answers given to the questions on the application form at the back of the handbook. If all applications are of a high standard, applications may be allocated based on the date they were received.

Application deadline dates:

- Monday 3rd June 2019 for Summer School Applications
- Friday 19th July 2019 for August – June Applications

PLEASE NOTE: you must apply using the application form at the back of this handbook. Applications using the short course booking form at the back of the RBGE course prospectus will not be considered. Applicants will be notified if their application has been successful or not within 2 weeks of the application deadline date.

Currently RBGE does not have capacity to recruit student nationals from outside the European Economic Area. A full list of eligible countries is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/eu-eea> If you are not eligible for this attended course please see information on our distance learning (online) course: www.rbge.org.uk/certbi

6. Absence Procedure

If you miss a class or are unable to attend you need to tell us as soon as possible. It may be possible to arrange for a catch up day, there would be a fee of £125* for this, except under exceptional circumstances and by prior arrangement with RBGE.

If you are unable to attend a class or miss a class, please contact the Education Office in the first instance. Contact details are 0131 248 2937 email: education@rbge.org.uk

*If more than one student is attending the catch up day this fee will be reduced accordingly.

7. Equipment Required

This is a practical course so you must have basic drawing and painting materials: This includes:

- A4 cartridge pad
- Saunders Waterford Hot Press (HP) 300gsm watercolour paper, or other Hot Press Watercolour paper: 2 sheets of A2 size
- Tracing paper: 1 sheet
- Windsor & Newton Professional Quality Watercolour paints, or other Artists Quality Paints;
Permanent Rose
Perylene Maroon
New Gamboge
Windsor Lemon
Indanthrene Blue
Cobalt Blue
- 2B, HB, 2H pencils
- Ceramic palette or white plate for mixing paint
- High quality pointed watercolour brushes size 0, 2 and 4 (these are not required until Unit 03)
- Eraser - Plastic and Putty
- Sharpener / knife
- 30cm clear Ruler and / or dividers
- Magnifying glass (if you have one)
- A "Pocket" microscope is also recommended

8. Course Venue

Courses are taught at RBGE. Access is via main reception at 20a Inverleith Row, Edinburgh, EH3 5LR. The room will be signposted.

Please contact us if you have any special access requirements.

9. Unit Descriptors

Descriptors for all units are on the following pages. Each descriptor states the:

- Learning Objectives
- Key Knowledge and Practical Activities to be covered during the unit
- Assessment Guidelines

Unit Number: CBI-01

**Unit Title: Context for Botanical Illustration& Drawing
Exploration**

Learning Objectives:

At the end of this Unit students will be able to:

- Understand what defines Botanical Illustration
- Understand the context of Botanical Art
- Introduce the materials of the Botanical Illustrator
- Recognise key structural plant parts and their functions
- Understand the basic principles for accurate measured drawing
- Learn to measure the correct size of plant parts with correct scale and proportions.

Key Knowledge:

- To outline the key features to define a Botanical Illustration
- A power point presentation of Historical Botanical Illustration, to set the scene and suggest its journey. Including Herbals, lithography and many of the key artists, movements and publications, of importance
- To go through a handling session on the materials essential to the illustrator
- Understanding of the Key structures of the plant through investigation, rubbings and simple line drawings

Key Practical Activities:

- To watch a presentation of past and present artists work with discussion. A chance for personal and group analysis throughout the session. Hand outs for further reference and follow up information
- Examine papers suitable for drawing
- Explore a variety of measuring aids.
- To undertake an accurate measured observational drawing of a fruit and a leaf.

Suggested Assessment:

- Begin a student self assessment chart
- Draw and label the basic parts of the flower / label
- Begin course portfolio

Unit Number: CBI-02

Unit Title: Drawing – Texture & Tone

Learning Objectives:

At the end of this Unit students will be able to:

- Carry out a range of different techniques in pencil
- Understand the use of tone for 3D rendering
- Understand the techniques for rendering appropriate texture.

Key Knowledge:

- To be able to look and analyse the plant and identify its parts
- Getting to know different pencil strengths appropriate for task
- How to create three dimensional illusions
- Learn exactly what type of drawing is appropriate for the purpose (sketching, accurate line or tone)

Key Practical Activities:

- Exercises to explore the pencil, line, tone, gradation and the effect of light source, etc
- Carry out a 3D pencil drawing of a fruit
- Explore various aspects of one a leaf, both front and back.

Suggested Assessment:

- Entry for self assessment chart
- Annotations of materials and methods used
- Self critical analysis in portfolio
- Brief group evaluation

Unit Number: CBI-03

Unit Title: 3D Modelling with Paint

Learning Objectives:

At the end of this Unit students will be able to:

- Understand the principles of preparation for painting
- Control the application of paint from light to dark
- Create a recognisable subject in 3D

Key Knowledge:

- Advantages and disadvantages of various materials
- How to generate good tertiary colours
- Building up depth of tone in a controlled way
- Different methods to create detail

Key Practical Activities:

- Experiment with colour mixes, to achieve tertiary colours
- Carry out exercises with a variety of shapes creating volume
- Prepare a light detailed drawing on relevant paper using transfer methods
- Apply the paint in layers, taking two different subjects, morning and afternoon

Suggested Assessment:

- Entry in self assessment chart
- Annotations of procedure and assessment used
- Completed course portfolio

Unit Number: CBI-04

Unit Title: Colour and Mixing Paint

Learning Objectives:

At the end of this Unit students will be able to:

- Understand the principles and methods of colour mixing starting with primary colours
- Carry out at least two distinct methods of paint application
- Understand how to bring one subject to a conclusion

Key Knowledge:

- Advantages and disadvantages of proportions of paint /water
- Brush choice
- To learn control of paint by building up washes
- To demonstrate dryer brush work in conjunction with washes
- To create 3D form by modelling and to strengthen tone

Key Practical Activities:

- Carry out a gradated range using only greens
- Using a fruit to work with, explore how to match test colours to subject, using layers.
- Introduce dry brush technique for detail and textures on subject
- Colour matching and rendering of the front and back of leaf subject matter
- Extension Exercise: To create a colour wheel from primary colours, with annotations

** Introduction to Final Composition Brief will be given**

Suggested Assessment:

- Practical test requiring the student to mix a selected leaf colour, with annotations describing the route
- Group evaluation with discussion (10 mins)
- Entry in self assessment chart

Unit Number: CBI-05

**Unit Title: Introduction to Storyboard for Composition -
Flowers and Buds**

Learning Objectives:

At the end of this Unit students will be able to:

- Identify basic floral parts in order to record correctly
- Understand the principles and methods of colour matching to plant material
- Understand the level of fine dry detail appropriate to subject
- Understand the elements required to complete a storyboard for the selected plant.
- Understand use of Storyboard for composition development.
- Utilise a camera for recording accurately all the plant details.

Key Knowledge:

- Correct drawing transfer and methods, care of work
- Reasons for pigment section and quantity of paint to water
- Terminology: depth of field, foreshortening
- Techniques: washes, gradation, blending, dry brush, etc
- Sizes of brushes and their uses
- Types and properties of different wet and dry methods of paint application
- Considerations when controlling edges of subject
- Appreciation of structure of flower head and its function
- Know how to get the best photographs of your plant.

Key Practical Activities:

- Carry out drawings for developing your knowledge of perspective, subject matter etc., of the flower head
- Transfer to watercolour paper
- Prepare colour tests for flower head and bud.
- Follow through a painted study of at least the flower petals.
- Demo of the use of a camera

Suggested Assessment:

- Fill in self assessment chart
- Carry out completed petal task
- Completed course portfolio with annotations and self criticism

Unit Number: CBI-06

Unit Title: Exploring Composition - Leaves

Learning Objectives:

At the end of this Unit students will be able to:

- Understand the basic principles and guidelines of composition
- Understand different types of composition, highlighting styles (old /contemporary) and reasons for use
- Ascertain when there is balance and harmony within the piece
- Identify basic structure and parts of leaves
- Draw and paint subject to a life like standard

Key Knowledge:

- Appreciation of images and discuss what elements are prioritised and how, for example, Botanists use scientific plates
- Becoming familiar with methods to design and compose a piece of work from sketch to layout
- Organising one's time with reference to the life of the plant

Key Practical Activities:

- To watch a presentation of portfolio examples of Distinction, Merit and Pass from previous CBI students.
- Have an awareness of weight and balance within a composition
- To carry out exercises in pairs, using prepared reproductions of plant parts to generate compositions
- Group discussion of findings of these exercises
- To colour test and mix relevant colours to render a section of the front and back of a leaf

Suggested Assessment:

- Carry out a group discussion, evaluation on the exercises
- Fill in the self assessment chart
- Carry out completed leaf task
- Completed course portfolio

Unit Number: CBI-07

Unit Title: Working on Final Composition

Learning Objectives:

At the end of this Unit students will be able to:

- Organise required elements for composition in a balanced way
- Decide, through various sketches and designs, the final composition
- Understand the principles of usage of cross sections elements in Botanical Illustration
- Draw and paint the subject to a life-like standard

Key Knowledge:

- Explore sizes, proportions and scale of elements within a botanical Illustration.
- Balance within composition
- Use of photography as a supporting and recording device
- Accurate drawing and colour matching of subject matter

Key Practical Activities:

- Referring to brief, explore the positioning of the 3 key elements within the composition i.e., flower, front and back of leaf.
- Use of tracing paper or light box to transfer final drawn composition to watercolour paper
- Continue with accurate colour matching and convincing 3D rendering of plant subject matter.

Suggested Assessment:

- Carry out group evaluation after the drawing stage, to assist with preparation for painting (5 -10 mins.)
- Fill in self assessment sheet
- Completed course portfolio with notes, annotations, and self criticism

Unit Number: CBI-08

Unit Title: Working on the Final Composition

Learning Objectives:

At the end of this Unit students will be able to:

- Understand colour weight and balance throughout a piece and the relationships between the elements
- Gain an understanding of when the piece of work needs adjustment and understand how the work should be 'refined' in terms of tone, texture, etc
- To become more familiar with the qualities of depth of field

Key Knowledge:

- Importance of discovering when things are or are not working within the composition
- Really confident with colour mixing and matching
- Continue with paint technique trials
- Refining different techniques of paint application
- Control and use of materials

Key Practical Activities:

- Identifying correct colour palettes for specific parts
- Confirming composition
- Continue to work on the painting of the three elements
- Continue with compositional painting exploring techniques as they develop
- Exploring details and challenging areas such as stems, junctions and textures

Suggested Assessment:

- On going developmental assessment
- Fill in personal self assessment sheet
- Completed course portfolio

Unit Number: CBI-09

Unit Title: Work on Final Composition

Learning Objectives:

At the end of this Unit students will be able to:

- Develop a critical awareness of your own and the work of others and of the subject in general
- Consider the presentation of the final composition and portfolio in general
- Show an ability to appreciate gaps in your research in order to prepare for the final portfolio hand in
- To look at areas requiring more tonal contrast, colour and detailed edges.
- Introduce a 2nd plant for those wishing to achieve a more complex composition

Key Knowledge:

- Employing finishing and sharpening
- Review portfolio with tutor and receive finishing guidance
- Decide on other elements if needed for balanced completion of composition

Key Practical Activities:

- Identifying correct colour palettes for specific parts
- Confirming composition
- Continue to work on the painting of the three elements
- Continue with compositional painting exploring techniques as they develop
- Exploring details and challenging areas such as stems, junctions and textures
- Folio review

Suggested Assessment:

- Ongoing developmental assessment
- Fill in personal self assessment sheet
- Completed course portfolio

Unit Number: CBI-10**Unit Title: Finalising and hand in of all course work****Learning Objectives:**

At the end of this Unit students will be able to:

- Hand in completed portfolio with finished final composition
- Have the ability to transfer their new knowledge to other pieces of work
- Have an indication of future opportunities

Key Knowledge: understanding

- To look at portfolio and composition to recognise whether the work is successfully concluded
- To investigate areas for future work and development

Key Practical Activities:

- Complete final composition and portfolio
- Group discussion on final compositions and future development e.g., Diploma in Botanical Illustration, competitive exhibition, further study.

Suggested Assessment:

- Ongoing developmental assessment
- Fill in personal self assessment sheet
- Completed course portfolio

[APPLICATION FORM ON NEXT PAGE]



Application Form

RBGE Certificate in Botanical Illustration (CERT BI)

Please post your completed form to: Education Administrator (Cert BI)
Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
20a Inverleith Row
Edinburgh
EH3 5LR
education@rbge.org.uk

Or email a scanned copy to:

Please see section 5 (page 8) for application procedure and deadline dates.

1. Personal Details

Title Mr / Mrs / Ms / Miss / Dr / Other _____

Name: _____ Contact Numbers:

Address: _____ Daytime: _____

_____ Evening: _____

_____ Mobile: _____

Nationality: _____

Email Address: _____

Reasons for applying for this course?

Existing Qualifications & Experience (in brief)

Where did you hear about this course?

Do you have any additional support needs? Please give details.

2. Course Options

Please select the course you wish to apply for.

First Choice:

- Summer School Course
- Saturday Course

Second Choice:

- Summer School Course
- Saturday Course

3. Payment Details

Course Fees	Total Amount
	£600

Payment Method:

Please do not send any money with this form, you will be asked for payment when you are offered a place on the course.

For office use only:

Date application received			Reference Number		
Offered place	Yes / No	Date:	Place accepted	Yes / No	Date: