

Botanical and Natural History Painting Course *with* Simon Williams

Prospectus and Enrolment Form- Year 2023



Are you an intermediate or experienced artist wanting to develop your skills in the discipline of botanical and natural history painting?

Do you need to get your botanical painting going again?

Brush up your observation and painting skills and learn new challenging methods to accurately illustrate using traditional painting techniques.

The course is based on a series of 6 practical modules that range from initial drawing studies through to painting exercises to explore different painting techniques for subject textures.

You will be required to work in either watercolour or gouache to produce your project artwork.

Subject choices are flexible within the project title to cover flora and fauna options as well as a final project to explore biodiverse subject matter. This could be rare or endangered species or topics that have evolved into elaborate and interesting symbiotic relationships with one another. Each exercise is set to develop your thought processes and artistic skillset to produce a finished piece of work that is submitted for assessment.

Your final artwork at the end of each project will be posted to Simon for evaluation and critique.

There is a fine line between botanical illustration and botanical painting.

Illustration leans towards scientific journals or for historical recordings of flora.

Botanical painting can be more creative in its expression.

Both disciplines still require a high level of observation and attention to detail, often captured with dry brush painting techniques which you will have the opportunity to learn.

This course is based around exciting and challenging projects. It will be enjoyable and gives you the chance to learn at a leisurely pace from your own home. Projects have an average of 2 months per project and the

If this course sounds appealing to you, please contact Simon directly.

Email: simon@swillustrations.com

Course commences 1st September 2023. Course enrolment deadline 31st July 2023

Course fees UK students £2000

Rest of World £2100

Payment options set out in the enrolment form included further through this prospectus.

As soon as you have paid the deposit and agreed your payment option, deadline dates and course material will be posted to you.

You will need to have some experience in botanical art or natural history painting and must have the willingness to pursue a precise rather than loose style of painting.

Simon will endeavour to give you confidence in your own ability, hone your existing skills and help you to achieve brilliance in your artwork.

Course Content and Aim.

The aim of this course is to help you develop and understand how to implement key drawing and painting techniques. Projects are designed to help you interact with and observe your subjects. You are then guided through more complex and thought-provoking projects to push your standards of artistic excellence.

Techniques can vary considerably from one subject choice to another and according to personal preference of style.

The principles of perspective, composition, brush control, attention to detail, study and sketchbook work will be covered.

You will be required to use your own resources to research projects. This will be valuable for building your own confidence and broaden your understanding of the subject matter.

This course has been designed so you can fit projects around your own personal life. With a maximum of two months between each project, the more time you can devote to the course, the more you are likely to benefit. The content has been specifically set so that you can have as much freedom of subject choice within each project.

How will you learn?

The course has been structured so that you get the full benefit of Simon's expertise in illustrative painting techniques and how to improve upon your existing skills or gain new ones. Written evaluations of your artwork based on the assessment criteria given at the end of each project will be returned with your artwork after it has been submitted to Simon on the due date.

Your original artwork projects and any accompanying material will need to be submitted via post. For international students' postal submissions are preferred but digital can be arranged at request.

A written critique, along with educational material such as amendment visuals of your artwork are provided. Any amendment visuals will be done as digital corrections original sketch/colour guidance visuals. Digital corrections will be the predominant method. For digital corrections, Simon uses Photoshop to render colour changes, show stages and steps on how to progress with your artwork. This is a very useful way to learn as you will be able to print out these digital visuals and use them as guidance.

Simon's tutoring methods differ to most botanical art tutors. Simon prefers to focus a lot more on the advanced capabilities of Photoshop. Showing students in their own images where improvements can be made, how to improve details and understand the importance of accurate observation.

Very few botanical tutors use this method and more often, they will rely on video demonstrations. There are huge advantages to digitally modified visuals over video.

For example, by using Photoshop, a composition can be complete deconstructed and put together in a more visually pleasing layout.

Leaf venations can be redrawn to show improvements and even linear outline drawings can be improved. Something that cannot be broken down through video. By using image editing software, Simon can visually present you with a 'new digital version' of your artwork to aid progress and development.

Simon likes to cross both traditional and digital editing in his tutoring approach.

"To have visuals provided in this way has been extremely useful to my students. Tutoring this way will be a significant feature to my Course and one that I believe enhances a students' learning experience. Often, I provide comparisons for students with before and after amendments to help highlight how my advice would benefit".

Course projects have been written to encourage students to work under their own initiative, come up with reference material and build on their thought processes to complete the project.

Guidance will be given to offer help with subject matter, decide whether it is too difficult or challenging for the set project or make alternative suggestions during the Zoom consultation before starting the project. This course has been developed to help you improve your existing skills, challenge and fulfil your painting ambitions.

Working in either watercolour or gouache medium, modules are set based around a combination of botanical and natural history topics to choose from.

About the tutor

Simon trained as a natural history illustrator in the late 90's. Early illustration work was done for commercial agencies, branding agencies and publishers.

Over the past 20 years, Simon has carved out a career in illustration although he has concentrated more on botanical painting and tutoring.

In 2013 he became Course Director for the international-recognised Distance Learning Diploma Course for the Society of Botanical Artists.

Simon considers himself just as much a plantsman as he is a botanical artist.

At his home, he manages to grow unusual and interesting painting subjects including species of Banksia, Protea, Nepenthes, Wollemi Pine and Leucadendron.

There will be the golden opportunity to visit Simon's Garden to enjoy a tour, ask questions and take the time to sketch or photograph plants that are usually only on view in special collections at botanical gardens or by travelling to the tropics.

Costings and what is included

- UK students -£2000 for the twelve-month course.
- Rest of World students - £2100 for the twelve-month course.
- This fee includes high quality tutoring. Twelve half hour one-to-one Zoom consultations and feedback from renowned botanical artist Simon Williams.
- Course materials – packaging materials and course project instructions folder.
- One – to – one mentoring sessions.

The course will offer mentoring where you will have the opportunity to speak to Simon via video (Zoom) or telephone conversation for thirty minutes as an introduction to the Course.

Your twelve, half hour one-to-one's will be based upon two consultations per assignment as outlined below.

One 30-minute Zoom, Email, WhatsApp or phone call to discuss the beginning of the new project and ask any questions that you may have in terms of requirements and to discuss art tips and techniques.

One 30-minute Zoom, Email, WhatsApp or telephone consultation 4 weeks (halfway) through your project. At this point Simon will be happy to see a digital visual of your work so far so he can make comments and guide you.

The consultations will be scheduled in UK time.

After your work has been submitted a written evaluation and visual amendments will be given. These will be returned with your project work. To prevent any delays, feedback will be emailed to international students as well as copies included in the post.

Return post of artwork. You are to work with your own art materials but if you are fairly new to botanical painting a materials list can be provided upon enrolment. Visits to Simons' Garden for a tour and sketching opportunity. Seasonal and pre-arranged depending on your location. This is optional and does not have to form part of your coursework.

A certificate of achievement and completion after all projects have been submitted and appraised.

10% discount off Simon's three - day course held at Plas Tan y Bwlch in Snowdonia National Park.

Guidance will be given at each stage of completion and submission of the project. This course does not offer continuous mentoring other than through the consultation sessions. However, if you are unsure of the project requirements, you are more than welcome to raise any queries regarding misunderstandings via email.

Course Projects

Full course project content will be provided upon enrolment.

Project 1 – Perspective, composition and observational drawing – Produce a sheet of pencil drawings of leaves, fruits or flowers to show various angles, perspective and get to understand the form and how it relates to 3 – dimensional shapes i.e. spherical, cylindrical, cubed. Understanding shapes and structure is an important part of producing a realistic drawing.

Project 2 – Textures and Techniques – Paint a variety of surfaces showing various textures and different techniques used to render them. For example, smooth washes for flat surfaces, stippled techniques for rough or detailed surfaces, hatching or brush work to show hairy surfaces.

Project 3 - Variegated foliage painting – Paint a selection of variegated foliage that will capture various colours from pale, almost white shades of variegation through to reds, oranges, purples. The more variegation the more fulfilled the project brief will be.

Project 4 - Flora and Fauna – An opportunity to paint either plants or explore natural history illustration by painting insects, birds, seashells, fungi. This will include sketchbook studies that will need to be submitted with your final project submission.

Project 5 - Plant Illustration – A botanical study of any chosen specimen showing all the principles of a botanical painting. Accurately drawn, life size or scaled accordingly, good colour rendering. Show dissections if possible and consider all the fundamentals of the specimens' qualities such as flowers, fruits, foliage, bulbs, roots, grow habit. These can all be classed as key diagnostic features to aid botanical identification. Something to consider when planning this project.

Project 6 - Biodiversity – A project set for you to really explore the natural world around you. Are there rare, endangered, or perhaps unique endemic species in your region? This is an opportunity to research and paint something with a background or vignette if you like. Or keep your subject matter on a white background. Perhaps expand on the Flora and Fauna project and look at plants and pollinators or symbiotic relationships.

Course Fee Payments.

Option 1 (PAY IN FULL ON ENROLMENT)

UK students - Full cost £2000 on enrolment or latest two weeks before 1st September 2023.

Rest of World students - Full cost of £2100 upon enrolment by the 31st July 2023

On receipt of this payment the course content will be provided immediately and posted via 1st class post UK and standard airmail to the rest of the world.

Option 2 (DEPOSIT and PAY REMAINING BALANCE)

UK Students - A deposit of £200 to be paid on enrolment will secure a place on this 12-month painting course.

Rest of World students - A deposit of £300 to be paid on enrolment will secure a place on this 12-month painting course.

Up on receipt of this payment the course content will be provided and posted via 1st class post UK and standard airmail to the rest of the world.

The remaining balance of £1800 will be required in full by the start date.

Option 3 (DEPOSIT and PAY IN 3 INSTALMENTS)

UK students - A £200 deposit to be paid on enrolment to secure a place on this 12-month painting course.

Rest of World students - A £300 deposit to be paid on enrolment to secure a place on this 12-month painting course.

Up on receipt of this payment the course content will be provided and posted via 1st class post UK and standard airmail to the rest of the world.

INSTALMENT 1

PAYMENT of £600 Due 1st September 2023

INSTALMENT 2

PAYMENT of £600 Due 1st January 2024

INSTALMENT 3

PAYMENT of £600 Due 1st May 2024

This course is non-refundable unless you have paid in full or must resign from the course due to illness or bereavement. In which case a refund will only be offered for the months you are unable to complete from the date you resign. There will be no refunds for the time you have spent on the course with Simon.

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ENROLMENT FORM YEAR 2023

STUDENT DETAILS 1 of 4

Full Name.....

Name you prefer to be called.....

Address.....

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Email Address.....

Home Phone Number.....

Mobile Phone Number.....

(Optional for course demographic research)

Date of Birth.....

(Optional in case of emergency)

Next of Kin Name.....Phone Number.....Relation.....

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ENROLMENT FORM YEAR 2023

PAYMENT DETAILS 2 of 4

(Please tick box next to your chosen payment option)

Option 1

(PAY IN FULL ON ENROLMENT)

UK students - £2000. Payment in full upon enrolment. (Before the 1st September 2023).

Rest of World - £2100. Payment needs to be made by 31st July 2023. This is to allow enough time to post course materials.

On receipt of this payment the course content will be provided and posted via 1st class post UK and standard airmail to the rest of the world.

Option 2

(DEPOSIT and PAY REMAINING BALANCE)

UK students - A deposit of £200 to be paid on enrolment to secure a place on this 12-month painting course.

Rest of World - A deposit of £300 to be paid on enrolment to secure a place on this 12-month painting course.

Upon receipt of this payment the course content will be provided and posted via 1st class post UK and standard airmail to the rest of the world.

The remaining balance of £1800 will be required on or before 1st September 2023

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UK students - A deposit of £200 paid on enrolment will secure a place on this 12-month painting course.

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INSTALMENT 3

PAYMENT of £600 Due 1st May 2024

Payments can be made by debit or credit card, BACS, payments over the phone or a payment link can be sent via email.

You will be sent payment details once your enrolment form has been sent to Simon. Please return via email simon@swillustration.com or post to 83 Wakely Road, Bear Cross, Bournemouth, Dorset. BH11 9EG. United Kingdom

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ENROLMENT FORM YEAR 2023

TERMS & CONDITIONS AGREEMENT 4 of 4

Please read the following and then print and sign your name at the end to state that you clearly understand and fully agree with the terms and conditions set out by Simon Williams before embarking on his Botanical and Natural History Painting Course.

Simon Williams is solely responsible for all tuition communication, and feedback of submitted artworks throughout the duration of the Course.

This is not an accredited Course.

The Course is not assessed on a points or marking system, instead tuition is given to offer guidance and improvement to your artistic skills and inspire a more confident and creative outlook within your own artwork.

This Course is designed to give you confidence in your artwork and to help you find new inspirational ways to bring out the best of your drawing / painting talents.

Progress will depend on the commitment and input that the student puts into the set Course projects.

Each Course project completion date is expected to be met on time, if you are unable to make deadline dates you must inform Simon as soon as possible to discuss.

This Course is none-refundable unless you have paid in full and must resign from the Course due to serious illness or bereavement. In this instance, a refund will only be offered for the months you are unable to complete from the date you resign, you will not be refunded for the time you and Simon have already spent on the Course.

No deferral is accepted on this Course.

Simon provides each student with safe and appropriate postal packaging for each project to minimise any damage to artwork in transit. Simon holds no responsibility for any artwork loss or damage whilst it is in postal transition.

Students are responsible for all postal payment costs of sending artwork to Simon.

Simon is responsible for all postal costs returning students work.

Simon Williams does not agree to or permit any type of sharing, reproducing, or copying of his artworks, Course content images, texts, student feedback, comments, illustrations, or conversations in any circumstance or at any time, particularly social media due to Copyright.

Simon can remove any student from the Course at any time if they display inappropriate behaviour to him or other students, this includes the inappropriate use of Social Media platforms.

A certificate of achievement will be posted just after completion of the Course.

Simon does not supply any art materials at all.

Data protection is in place whereby no student's information is shared, sold, or disclosed. All correspondence is private and confidential.

I have read the whole of the Prospectus information and I fully understand and agree with it all.

Student Name..... Signature..... Date.....

Simon Williams, 83 Wakely Road, Bear Cross, Bournemouth, Dorset. BH11 9EG. United Kingdom