

Botanical Painting Course with Simon Williams - Includes optional natural history topic choices. Prospectus and Enrolment Form - Year 2026



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.

Enrolment times are flexible throughout the year. Places are limited but due to small teaching numbers enrolments can be accepted anymonth of the year. Enrolment form is included in this document.

Tutor: Simon Williams - SWIllustrations

Simon Williams's Botanical and Natural History Painting Course is a short 12-month Course for you to complete at home.

The course is designed around a series of 6, modules, in which you will be set practical projects to complete.

At the end of each project, your artwork will be submitted via post for a full written and illustrated critique.

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 original carved out a career in illustration but through natural progression has concentrated more on botanical art. Growing into one of the UK's top botanical painting tutors.

In 2013 he became Course Director for the internationally - 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.

This course has been developed to help you improve your existing skills, challenge and fulfill 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.

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.

If this course sounds appealing to you, please contact Simon directly. Email: simon@swillustrations.com

As soon as you have paid the course fee, 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 aims.

The aims of this course are 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.

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 for researching projects and 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 also been structured so that you get the full benefit of Simon's expertise in illustrative painting techniques, 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 or digitally to international students. A written critique, along with educational material such as amendment visuals of your artwork. An amendment visual will be a digital correction or guidance visual. 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 the digital visuals and use them as guidance.

Guidance notes, colour suggestions and how to improve your artwork, comments and critiques will be based on the individual project.

Costings and what is included.

£2000 for the twelve-month course - UK

£2100 - International.

This fee includes high quality tutoring. Twelve half hour one-to-one Zoom consultations and feedback from renowned botanical artist Simon Williams.

Course project instructions.

The course will offer mentoring where you will have the opportunity to speak to Simon via video (Zoom) or telephone conversation for 30 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.

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.

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 or 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.

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 captures not only various colours but potentially pale to almost white shades of variegation.

Project 4 - Flora and Fauna – An opportunity to paint either plants or explore natural history illustration by painting insects, birds, fungi.

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 and show dissections if possible.

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 in full colour artwork with backgrounds or vignettes if you like. Or keep your specimen illustrations on white backgrounds. 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. You can pay the full cost of £2000 two weeks before the course commences. £2100 rest of world

Up 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)

A deposit of £200 paid on enrolment will secure a place on this 12-month painting course. Rest of world students £300 deposit.

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 your start date.

Option 3

(DEPOSIT and PAY IN 3 INSTALMENTS)

A deposit of £200 paid on enrollment will secure a place on this 12-month painting course. Rest of world £300 deposit

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 Required at the time of your official start date

INSTALMENT 2

PAYMENT of £600 Instalment will be set quarterly from your official start date.

INSTALMENT 3

PAYMENT of £600 Instalment will be set quarterly from instalment 2.

This course is non-refundable unless you 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.

Botanical and Natural History Painting Course with Simon Williams

ENROLMENT FORM YEAR 2026

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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STUDENT INTRODUCTION 3 of 4

Please share with Simon below why you want to embark on this Course.

What would you like to gain?

What do you think your strengths are in your artwork?

What do you think your weakness are?

What area would you most like to improve on?

Which artists inspire you?

Anything else you may like to share with Simon.

Students Name.....

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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.

Rest of World - £2100. Payment in full upon enrolment.

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 2024

Option 3

(DEPOSIT and PAY IN 3 INSTALMENTS)

UK students - A deposit of £200 paid on enrolment will 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.

INSTALMENT 1

PAYMENT of £600 Required on your official start date.

INSTALMENT 2

PAYMENT of £600 Instalment date will be set quarterly from your official start date.

INSTALMENT 3

PAYMENT of £600 Instalment dates will be set quarterly from your official start date.

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. UK

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ENROLMENT FORM YEAR 2026

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 non-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