

IR-472 **Basics of  
Watercolor Botanical  
Illustration**

3/8, 3/15, 3/22,  
4/5, 4/12, 4/19,  
4/26, 5/3, 5/10  
10:00–11:30 a.m.  
Mila Antkevych

**A big welcome to all participants of our watercolor course!  
Get ready for an exciting journey!**

These materials provide the necessary tools for creating detailed and accurate botanical illustrations in watercolor.

**Watercolor paper:**

**for sketches and exercises:** watercolor sketchbook **or** pad.

**for projects:** High-quality watercolor paper, **100% cotton cold-pressed (NOT) or HP (hot-pressed). 300 g/m<sup>2</sup> 140 lb or higher.**

watercolor pad 9x12 **or** 12x18,  
**or** block either 9x12 **or** 12x18.  
**or** loose leaf watercolor paper.

(Arches, Saunders Waterford, Fabbriano, Winzor and Newton etc. ).

**Watercolor paints:**

**Professional or artist-grade** watercolor set of paints in a variety of colors in tubes or pans/half pans. Minimum 12 colors. (**Rembrandt**, Da

Vinci, Winsor and Newton, Grumbacher, Daniel Smith, Sennelier, Holbein etc).

If you're not planning to purchase the watercolor set, you can acquire **6 tubes or pans of warm and cool version of each primary color:**

**Red cool:** Carmine **or** Alizarin crimson

**Red warm:** Grumbacher Red **or** Winsor Red

**Blue warm:** French Ultramarine **or** Ultramarine blue

**Blue cool:** Winsor Blue **or** Grumbacher Thalo blue

**Yellow warm:** Indian yellow **or** new gamboge

**Yellow cool:** Lemon yellow, cadmium yellow, **or** Winsor yellow.

### **Brushes:**

Minimum requirement:

1. Fine-tipped round watercolor brushes in sizes 2 and 6, along with one miniature brush. (natural hair or a blend of squirrel, sable hair, and synthetic fibers).
2. Flat synthetic brush for lifting color.

If botanical illustration in watercolor is your passion, consider investing in high-quality brushes:

Da Vinci Maestro, Daler-Rowney, or Winsor & Newton Kolinsky Sable Series 7, both Miniature and Round Tip. As a starter, I can recommend a set of 4 round tip brushes, #0, 1, 2, 3.

### **Miscellaneous:**

**Palette:** A small white ceramic palette for mixing and diluting watercolor paints **or** a white ceramic plate.

**Water containers:** Two containers for holding water for rinsing brushes and diluting paint.

**Pencil:** A soft pencil for sketching initial outlines and details and mechanical pencil 0.3 mm.

**Erasers:** A soft eraser and kneaded-eraser for correcting mistakes in the pencil sketch.

**Pencil sharpener.**

**Masking fluid:** Use to preserve white areas or create intricate details. Requires a cheap synthetic miniature or small brush for application. (optional).

**Drawing board:** A sturdy drawing board to support the paper during painting. (optional for those who use paper blocks).

**Masking tape:** Low-tack masking tape for securing the paper to the drawing board. (optional for those who use paper blocks).

**Paper towels:** For blotting excess water or paint from brushes.

**Magnifying glass:** for detailed observation and precision.(optional).

**Watercolor pencils** (optional).

Reference materials: Botanical specimens, photographs, or botanical illustrations for reference.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me.

Looking forward to starting this course with you in the spring semester!