This course is designed especially for those with some experience in watercolour painting who have a love of, and interest in, flowers and plants and now wish to take their first steps in botanical illustration. We will look at composition and make both line and tonal drawings. Also covering colour mixing and matching to our specimens, plus all those watercolour techniques needed to achieve the various textures required by the botanical illustrator.

This course will help you to take your first steps in Botanical Illustration. It is designed to encourage your observation and accuracy and to get you to think carefully about using watercolour in a fresh and transparent way. It will introduce you to the important skills required in Botanical painting and drawing.

You need have no previous experience of Botanical Illustration: the course is for those who have a love and interest in flowers and plants. **However you will need good eyesight and a steady hand as the work is detailed and intricate.**

During the evenings we will continue with our entry into the world of Botanical Art by watching a DVD of a well know botanical artist, or you can continue with your painting, light permitting.

Our subjects for this course will be whatever fresh flowers are available at the time of the course. Some flowers will be provided but if you have any flowers in your garden that you would like to paint or you think someone else would like to paint then please bring them along.
Lesley Smith was taught by a Tutor called Freda Titford, at an adult education class in Waltham Forest, East London 23 years ago. Freda had attended courses at Flatford Mill with Mary Grierson who is a renowned botanical artist, and had been taught by John Nash. When Freda retired she asked Lesley to take the class over. She did this with some trepidation having never taught before. To improve her painting skills she attended the beginner’s course with Jenny Jowett, who is a founder member of the Society of Botanical Artists, and who encouraged and helped Lesley to advance her techniques and knowledge in the subject.

Lesley advanced to the experienced artist’s course and has now been teaching in adult education for 24 years. She still regularly attends Jenny’s course and finds talking and swapping ideas with the other artists extremely valuable, keeping her teaching ideas fresh and current. She is particularly good with complete beginners, having been one herself! She enjoys painting, especially in watercolour, and is now being more experimental with this medium.

### What to Bring

#### Watercolour paints

Please avoid Daler Rowney Aquafine paints as they are hard to work with.

The following are essential colours for flower and plant illustration:

- Raw sienna
- Transparent yellow
- Indigo
- Ultramarine
- Yellow ochre
- Cadmium red
- Quinacridone magenta
- Windsor violet
- Light red
- Cadmium yellow
- Burnt sienna
- Aureolin yellow (essential for mixing good greens)
- Permanent rose
- Scarlet lake
- Cobalt blue
- Lemon yellow
- Burnt umber

#### Brushes

You will need to bring one good paint brush (sable if possible) but if you cannot afford sable then buy a brush that points well and has as much sable content as possible. Pro Arte do a good cheaper range. I use a size 4 Da Vinci brush series 10 (or 11) sable brush, available from Jacksons catalogues or Art Van Go in Stevenage, both have websites you can buy from.
Paper
Good paper makes a good painting, you can buy large sheets of good quality watercolour paper from most art shops, one sheet can be cut into 4, or bring any paper you are happy working on if you have painted before. I use Saunders Waterford 140lb Not surface paper. Bockingford is not suitable for this course as it is extremely hard to work on. I will bring some sheets of paper for sale if you are unsure.

Other Equipment
Water jars as the ones at the Centre are sometimes quite well used. White palettes, some cotton rag or kitchen roll, a putty rubber, an HB or an F pencil, a sharpener, some blu-tack. Some flowers will be provided but if you have any flowers in your garden that you would like to paint or you think someone else would like to paint then please bring them along.

Most of the above items can be purchased online from Ken Bromley, or Jacksons.

Please note that the Centre shop does not stock art materials.

Start and finish times
Afternoon tea is available from 1600 on Tuesday, but the first formal activity is dinner at 1830 (with the bar open from 1815!)

Residents: Please aim to arrive between 1600 and 1800 on Tuesday to allow us sufficient time to show you to your accommodation and around the communal areas.

Non-residents: You do not need to arrive quite so early but please can you be here by 1800 as we need to show you the communal areas as well.

The course ends at 1600 on Friday.

What the fee includes
Residential course fee includes:
- Full board accommodation including cooked breakfast, picnic lunch, homemade cakes and an evening meal. Vegetarian and other dietary option available.
- Up to 8 hours teaching time a day, plus relaxing breaks for meals and refreshments.
• Tea and coffee making facilities available throughout the day.
• Use of resources including library, workrooms, studios and the Centre grounds.
• Transport during the courses.
• Insurance to cover cancellation, personal belongings, personal accident, legal liability and medical emergency.

If you choose to be a non-resident on a residential course, the fee will include all the above except accommodation and breakfast.

**How to book**

Bookings can be made by telephoning the Centre; we are open 0930 – 1700 weekdays and most weekends. Alternatively, bookings can be made via our website: www.field-studies-council.org.