

American Society of Botanical Artists

24th Annual Meeting and Conference

St. Louis 2018

Matching Mushroom Colors: Mixing Browns and Everything Else

Margaret Saylor

Friday, October 12, 2018

9:00 am – 4:00 pm (one-hour lunch break)

Room: Ambassador 2

Mushrooms are brown, right? Or maybe not. Spend a fun day learning a bit about mushrooms, experimenting with unique color mixes to concoct the perfect brown color, and paint mushrooms to your hearts' content. A relaxing, informative class involving a little mycology, a pinch of color theory, a whole lot of painting, and, of course, fun.



Supply List

I'm a firm believer in using whatever materials you are comfortable with, as long as it is of a professional grade.

- Drawing paper: 9" x 12" spiral bound pad, Strathmore 400 series - please avoid sketch paper and paper with a very smooth surface OR my new favorite sketchbook, Stillman & Birn Zeta series.
- Canson tracing pad, 9" x 12"
- Graphite mechanical or regular pencils, 2H, HB, 2B, with sharpener (Faber-Castell 9000, Staedlter Mars Lumograph, or Caran D'Ache)
- Tuffstuff eraser stick, and a kneaded eraser
- Fabriano Artistico Traditional White 140# hot press watercolor paper, OR your current favorite hot press paper, cut into a workable size, 11" x 14". Traditional white is less harsh on the eyes for these types of painterly vignettes of fungi.
- Viva paper towels (a few...very absorbent)
- 2 water vessels (one for working water, one for clean)
- Plastic or porcelain palette, with room to mix colors, white
- DaVinci Maestro Kolinsky Brushes, long tapered round or round: #4, #6; or Raphael 8408 Kolinsky Sable #4, cream colored handle. The reason I love these, especially the #4, is the super-sharp needle-like point that has great spring and tension. They clean easily and last a long time.

- Paint: We all have our favorite palettes and paint. I build my own 'earth and fungi' color set by using an empty travel palette box with removable pans. I have no allegiance to any particular brand of paint. I use Winsor & Newton, M. Graham, and Daniel Smith. Fill an empty palette with a fairly limited range of warm and cool yellows, reds and blues.

A good set of six would be:

French Ultramarine Blue
Cerulean Blue
Cadmium Yellow Medium
Lemon Yellow
Permanent Magenta
Scarlet Lake

To mix the ultimate fungi brown you will also need:

Perylene Maroon
Quinacridone Gold
Windsor Violet

- Transfer method of your choice (Saral is fine by me)
- Ott light/battery powered (if needed)

Optional but handy:

- National Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Mushrooms (or any field guide you are comfortable using)
- a magnifying lens
- a camera, iPhone or iPad
- wax paper or wax paper bags and a container to transport specimens home
- a piece of foam core or oasis, toothpicks or small pieces of wood to prop up specimens
- a ruler
- tape, white graphic
- a drawing board or hard surface to use as a portable easel. Would be great to be able to prop it up at a slight angle.
- a notebook/sketchbook for preliminary drawings and general research, notes

Instructor's Bio

Margaret Saylor loves to paint and draw fungi, especially that found in her native Pennsylvania woodland. Margaret teaches mushroom painting workshops using wild and cultivated specimens. She is the editor/designer of The Botanical Artist, ASBA's quarterly journal