

American Society of Botanical Artists
23rd Annual Meeting and Conference
San Francisco 2017

Painting the Dark Side
Martin Allen

Friday, October 13, 2017
9:00 am – 4:00 pm
(full-day classes include a one-hour lunch break)
Filoli - Roth Room

Shadow theory, color mixing and practice; in particular shadows in life-like representation of subjects. Please note this class is intended to stretch experienced artists: beginners will probably struggle.



Supply List

- Please bring your usual paints, paper and brushes – the ones that you are used to using as you will learn more that way and be comfortable with what you are using, making it easier for you to concentrate on new information.
- We will be doing some class exercises so please bring enough **paper** (hot pressed) to do several small paintings on and also some separate paper to carry out color studies. I say separate because I prefer you to be able to move your color studies piece of paper and place it next to the painting. It doesn't matter if your usual paper is creamy or bright white as we will be able to look at the differences it makes...if you can't decide what to bring, then bring a selection and have a play with them all on the day.
- Same applies with **paints**...there is always someone who carries around the complete ranges of several paint manufacturers on the off-chance that a paint they last used in 2004 might come in useful. Yes, it might. You never know. Bring them and we'll see. Everyone uses color differently – I think that's important – so bring what you bring and we'll see what happens. I have about ten paints and mix from them. Bring something to mix the paints in and a water container.
- **Brushes** – bring something between a 3 and a 6 so we can actually put some paint on the paper and then otherwise what you usually use, for the reasons above.
- Bring **pencils** – 2H, HB and 2B. I think we will probably just be using them to trace an outline down onto painting paper that I will have prepared...it'll be quicker that way.

- **Lighting** is apparently not going to be ideal (to be fair it never is unless you are in your own studio) and if you have such a thing as a “portable battery operated light” such as Ott Lites then you may find it useful. We will be working from photographs rather than real plant material because it is the easiest and quickest way to convey the information I want to teach. Real life is quite similar, but requires better lighting. We’ll discuss that.

I will expect you to have a reasonable understanding of color theory...it won’t hurt you to do a quick bit of revision before you turn up on the day.

Instructor’s Bio

Martin is a Royal Horticultural Society Gold Medallist, Emeritus Fellow of the Chelsea Physic Garden Florilegium Society, with paintings in the collection of the Hunt Institute and Shirley Sherwood. He has a degree in Environmental Horticulture and works in native plant conservation in the UK.