

Scottish Society of Botanical Artists

BOTANICAL ART COURSES, SCOTLAND

The SSBA is pleased to offer **Introductory** and **Intermediate** botanical art courses in the north and south of Scotland, both for beginners and those with some experience.

The courses are open to SSBA members, other individuals and art groups in the south and north of Scotland. There will be 8 courses, with 12 places available on each course.

Funded by the Finnis Scott Foundation, the training course tuition is offered free to artists. Art materials, travel, accommodation and evening meal costs are not included.

Background

Botanical Illustration goes back to the 16th century with works by Leonardo da Vinci. From then on, many painters were depicting botanical art. Botanical Illustration was the original method used by artists who travelled with the early explorers to record the new species they found as they explored the world.

Today detailed plant portraits are still used as scientific images for things such as botanical textbooks but it has also evolved into an art form.

Botanical art today, although botanically correct, often has a more aesthetic quality. Artists are constantly pushing the boundaries and produce amazing art works.

These intensive courses aim to introduce you to this world and help you appreciate the fine detail in flowers, trees, vegetables and much more and then how to record them.



The Finnis Scott
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Course Overviews

The **Introductory** course is for anyone interested in exploring Botanical Art and although watercolour experience is not essential it would certainly help.

Over the weekend you will be introduced to:

- The materials used such as paper, paints, pencils, etc
- The relevance of detailed observation of your subject
- The importance of accurate measurement of your subject and the relevance of perspective
- The relevance and importance of dark and light in your painting, tonal values
- The basics of watercolour paint application with accurate colour matching

The **Intermediate** course is aimed at helping the participants to further develop their botanical art skills and previous experience is necessary.

It will cover different techniques used in botanical painting, such as dry brush work, stippling, fine detail, enlarging subjects, etc.

Over the weekend you will:

- Review materials used, measurement and watercolour techniques
- Have the opportunity to appreciate the effectiveness of tonal values to create depth and perspective
- Be introduced to different painting techniques



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- Look at how to achieve shine and fine details, such as hairs
- Look at methods used to correct mistakes!
- Explore different types of composition

Both courses will comprise group demonstrations followed by personal practice. Individual guidance will also be given as required. A list of materials required for each course will be sent out when you are accepted onto the course.

Venues

South of Scotland Courses - Dumfries

The venue for the south of Scotland is the town of Dumfries, in Dumfries & Galloway. Dumfries is on the A75, a short distance from the A74(M) accessible by bus as well as by car.

The courses will be held at Crichton Central on the southern outskirts of Dumfries.

Single occupancy room accommodation is available at the nearby Holiday Inn, a 6-minute walk from the meeting room.

If you prefer to arrange your own accommodation, or live within daily travelling distance, we'd be delighted if you would still join us for dinner early on the Saturday evening after the course as an opportunity to socialise with other attendees.



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North of Scotland Courses - Aviemore

The venue for the north of Scotland courses is Aviemore, in the Cairngorms National Park. Aviemore is just 31 miles from Inverness and 93 miles from Aberdeen. It's on the Highland Main Line train service and accessible from across Scotland by bus as well as by car.

The courses will be held at Macdonald Aviemore Resort Conference Centre. Accommodation is available at the Macdonald Highlands Hotel next door, just a 3-minute walk from the meeting room.

If you prefer to arrange your own accommodation, or live within daily travelling distance, we'd be delighted if you would still join us for dinner early on the Saturday evening after the course as an opportunity to socialise with other attendees.

Costs

Funded by the Finnis Scott Foundation Botanical Art Prize 2022, www.finnis-scott-foundation.org.uk, the SSBA course tutoring plus tea, coffee and lunch during the course is provided free of charge to attendees.

Attendees will need to cover own costs for travel, art materials and, where required, accommodation, breakfast and dinner.



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South of Scotland Courses - Dumfries

Accommodation for the following courses is available at the Holiday Inn, Bankend Road, Dumfries. The costs include single room occupancy, 3-course dinner, bed and breakfast:

| Course | Cost |
|--------------|------------------------|
| October 2023 | £121 per night |
| April 2024 | Approx. £121 per night |

The cost of the 3-course dinner for non-residents is £30.

We are considering alternative accommodation and dinner options for Dumfries and will update applicants in due course.

North of Scotland Course - Aviemore

Accommodation is available, at a preferential rate to course attendees, at the Macdonald Highlands Hotel, Aviemore. The costs include single room occupancy, dinner (up to £25), bed and breakfast:

| Course | Cost |
|--------------|----------------|
| October 2023 | £140 per night |
| April 2024 | £145 per night |



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Timetable

Course dates are:

| Course | Location | Dates |
|--------------|----------|--|
| Introductory | Dumfries | Sat, 30th September & Sun, 1 st October 2023 |
| Introductory | Aviemore | Sat, 21 st & Sun, 22 nd October 2023 |
| Intermediate | Dumfries | Sat, 6 th & Sun, 7 th April 2024 |
| Intermediate | Aviemore | Sat, 20 th & Sun, 21 st April 2024 |

Weekend course schedule:

| Day | Activities |
|----------|--|
| Saturday | 10am – 4.30pm: art classes, morning tea/coffee, lunch and afternoon tea/coffee |
| Sunday | 10am – 3.30pm: art classes, morning tea/coffee, lunch and afternoon tea/coffee |

Application for Autumn 2023 Introductory Courses

To apply for the autumn 2023 Introductory courses in Dumfries and Aviemore, complete the application form:

[Autumn 2023 Courses Application Form](#)



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Places are at a premium so we encourage applicants to apply as soon as possible. Priority will be given to applicants from the south and north of Scotland. You can be added to a waiting list once the course is full, in case of any cancellations.

Applications open: 1st July 2023

Applications close: 31st July 2023

Attendee places confirmed: 10th August 2023

To Register Interest

To register your interest in the April 2024 Intermediate courses, please complete this form:

[Register Interest Form](#)

Applications will be open as follows:

| Course Dates | Applications Open | Applications Close | Place Confirmed |
|--------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| April 2024 | 1st January 2024 | 31st January 2024 | 14th February 2024 |

To Contact the SSBA

Email: contact@thessba.org

The information provided in this document may be subject to change. Anyone applying for a course or registering interest will be updated of any changes as soon as it is practicable to do so.



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