

American Society of Botanical Artists

25th Annual Meeting and Conference
Pittsburgh 2019

Watercolor on Kelmscott Vellum

Jean Emmons

Friday, October 18, 2019

9:00 am – 4:00 pm

(full-day classes include a one-hour lunch break)



Kelmscott vellum requires a drier, more careful touch than other vellums. Yet, in some ways it is more versatile. We will spend a day building paint, lifting, repairing, scratching, and repainting while refining our drybrush skills. If time allows, we will begin a tiny subject.

Supply List

- Kelmscott vellum will be supplied by instructor
- Most Important Item -- A Good Brush: a couple of really good Kolinsky sable watercolor brushes, rounds #2, #3 or #4. I use Raphael Designer's Kolinsky Series 8408 (not 8404!) size #4, Da Vinci Maestro Series 35 size #4, and Billy Showell Fine Tipped Sable Brush size #2. Winsor Newton Series 7 and Isabey Kolinsky Sable, etc. are also good. These must be new and be able to keep a sharp point.
- Your normal watercolor supplies: Paints**, palette*, water jar, paper towels, pencils (4H, 2H, HB), artists tape, new kneaded eraser, a clean Magic Rub eraser, A small scalpel or x-acto retractable blade knife x 3209 for scratching, a few small pieces of drawing and tracing paper for drawings or to make a mask with. Watercolor paper scraps for testing paint.
- Small synthetic or bristle brushes for lifting: (Size #1 Rounds or smaller) I don't recommend a specific brand, as I have yet to find the perfect lifting brush. Da Vinci Series 7782 TOP ACRYL Round Size #1 is pretty good.
- Magnifier or head loupe: We are going to be working in very tiny areas.
- A white backing piece for your vellum: White foamcore or matboard a little bit bigger than 5" x 7".
- A simple pencil drawing of a small subject you would like to paint on your 5"x 7" vellum such as an acorn, a cherry, a walnut, a small tomato...
- Optional Supplies: A microfiber cleaning cloth to remove sanding dust. A small battery operated eraser. A portable lamp (battery operated only).

*Palette: In order to lay out “skins” of color, a butcher tray palette or white china plate works well with this technique.

** Watercolor paints: Winsor Newton, Daniel Smith, Holbein work better than honey-based watercolors like M. Graham or Sennelier.

Instructor's Bio

A dedicated gardener, Jean Emmons has two gold medals and “Best Painting of Show” (London, 2011) from the Royal Horticultural Society, the ASBA 2005 Diane Bouchier Artist Award for Excellence in Botanical Art, Jurors Award Filoli 2018 and “Best in Show” ASBA 21st International 2018.