Visual Art Classes

Course: Nature and Garden Journal
Program # 3486-16-LAAS
4 Tuesdays, April 12-May 3, 2016, 1-3:30 pm
UW Arboretum Visitors Center, Rm 2, 1207 Seminole Hwy

Instructor: Cynthia Quinn
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A welcome note from your instructor:
I developed this class a number of years ago, based on wanting to share my love for all the aspects of what we observe in nature from season to season. I am happiest when on a walk in wild places or visiting gardens of all kinds. The goal of this class is to provide students with the knowledge to work with various types of media while focusing on a variety of nature subjects.

Covered in this class:
Drawing fundamentals, sketching with graphite pencils, watercolor pencils, watercolors, and pen & ink. Informal calligraphic techniques, collage and page design/layout ideas are also presented. We mainly work in sketchbooks.

Tips for success:
Students from all walks of life have been in this class. Having an art background does not affect your ability to do well. Being a keen observer of the natural world is a good first step. Part of the fun is the camaraderie of the group and seeing how others translate their observances of nature.

Be prepared to work outside in good weather. Have a portable stool/chair you can carry, plus sunscreen and insect repellent and drinking water. We may walk a bit to find good places to draw, so wear comfortable clothes and shoes.

Materials Fee: N/A

Supply List (Bring your own)
Note: All supplies are suggestions. Mention of a brand or retailer should not be considered UW-Madison endorsements. Students may make substitutions.

- A SKETCHBOOK with good quality paper preferably watercolor paper (especially if you want to paint on some of your drawings). Recommended brands- Arches, Moleskine Watercolor, or Stillman Birn, all with cold pressed paper, weight, approximately 140 pound. Size can be whatever
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you are comfortable using. I generally work in a 5 x 8” size sketchbook. Also, tinted drawing/painting papers can be used, or blank postcards.

- Photos of plants and animals you would like to draw
- Graphite pencil HB or B lead (sharpen for pencil), or mechanical pencil
- Kneaded eraser
- India ink (Black or Brown), pen point holder, and Speedball #512 pen tip, and/or a Micron or Staedtler marker, size 01. (optional - additional colored inks or pens)
- Round tip watercolor brush, Size 6 – 8, synthetic hair is fine
- Medium-sized white plastic palette with paint mixing area
- Tracing paper, 9 x 12” size or so
- Water container
- Paper towels
- Interesting scraps of paper for collage possibilities
- Exacto knife or scissors
- Ruler
- Small folding stool to sit on, bag to carry your supplies (we will try to be outside some of the class)
- Camera (optional, but helpful to have with you at all times)
- WATERCOLOR PENCILS- Assortment of colors, brands such as: Prismacolor, Winsor Newton, Derwent, Staedtler, Bruynzeel & Caran D’ache. A set of 12 or more is best for color selection. Avoid crayon-type pencils.
- WATERCOLORS 5ML TUBES OR HALF PANS- Artists quality preferred. Winsor Newton brand is the easiest to find, however you can use other brands). Feel free to bring any watercolors you own, but as a minimum have pigments similar to following colors.
- One of the following yellows- Winsor Yellow, Transparent Yellow, Cadmium Yellow
- One of the following reds- Quinacridone Red, Cadmium Red, Permanent Rose
- Winsor Blue (green shade), also called Phthalo Blue
- Burnt Umber