

**The Botanical and Natural History Painting course**  
**Originally created and devised by UK based, internationally renowned**  
**Botanical Artist and Author Simon Williams RHS Gold Medallist, SBAFA**

Testimony from Carolann Alexander

I really like and admire Simon's work, gaining inspiration and motivation from his varied impactful portrayals of the Natural Botanical world.

The absolute scope of botanical specimens that Simon captures in paint ranges interestingly and skilfully from classical Ivy to exotic pitcher plants Nepenthes.

Simon's paintings build engaging pathways in nature and introduce the viewer to studies from entomology, ornithology and mammals.

This is why I would highly recommend enrolling onto Simons course as you have a unique opportunity to be tutored by a highly acclaimed professional Botanical artist who specialises in both flora and fauna.

On the introductory page of the painting course prospectus, you are asked two questions that directly relate to your art practise. These questions are effective and practical in nature and Simon helpfully lists possible solutions. This constructive positive guidance is consistently given to you throughout the duration of the course.

The enrolment form invites you to elaborate on your reasons for applying for a place on the course and encourages you to state what artistic hopes you have by undertaking the course.

I personally found this approach to be very motivating as it allowed me to clearly define what aspirations I had for my art practise. Answering these questions helped me see, the possible individual developments I may need to work on, in order to progress. As well as making me consider new painting techniques that I would be interested in learning.

I very much enjoyed following a well-designed course structure contained in six investigative creative projects over a period of twelve months.

You can choose to work in either watercolour or gouache; I chose to paint using watercolour and to have a professional Botanical Artist as a tutor who is an expert in both mediums, I feel is very rare and extremely helpful to you as a student.

Each project has an instructive title, project deadline date, an introductory explanation of the aims of the project and suggested instructions on how to prepare, manage and to bring your project to conclusion.

The six projects are invaluable in developing key drawing and painting techniques, you are directed, taught, shown and encouraged by Simon to progress your artistic ambitions towards achieving standards of artistic excellence.

Simon has meetings with you during each project's time frame, so you can discuss in detail the different botanical and natural history topics you wish to study and to share ideas about. Within these meetings Simon uses Photoshop as a teaching tool to show you visually how to evolve your sketches, studies and final paintings, this helps immensely with your learning.

At the end of each project you are given a report about your work and each report is absolutely fantastic, the amount of detail and insight given into your art work, is really phenomenal and these reports become an invaluable resource of support, encouragement and inspiration.

The one-to-one support you receive is unquestionably exceptional.

Receiving personalised online consultation sessions, being shown and encouraged to enjoy and have fun in your painting along with timely prompts to ensure that you are continuing to maintain good art practices is truly fantastic.

I am extremely happy I enrolled onto Simons course, I had been searching for botanical inspiration and knew I needed encouragement with my artistic practise. Now that I have successfully completed Simons course, and received my certificate I go forward as an Botanical artist with confidence and a stable foundation of artistic techniques and skill set.