

## WORKSHOP:

# DRY BRUSH TECHNIQUES

With dry brush techniques you can add those gorgeous details in your artwork, paint those beautiful hairs, veins or patterns on leaves and petals or make those leaves look so beautifully crisp. In this workshop I will share with you my method of dry brushing, how to paint those details and practice it together so that you can take your artwork to another level.

There are many great painting supplies available and every artist has their own preferences. You can create great results with any professional artist supplies so please bring your personal papers, paints and brushes that you normally use when drawing and painting. Do not forget to bring a good portable battery-operated lamp! As most classrooms are set up as a meeting room, lighting conditions will not be as they would be in your studio. Below are the materials I personally use to create my artwork.

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## MATERIALS LIST:

Students should bring:

**Paper** – The papers I use paper are hot pressed (HP) and have a very smooth surface. There are various good HP watercolor papers available such as Fabriano, Hahnemühle or Arches. Depending on the brand some papers are very white or more cream colored. For example Arches is a more cream colored paper. I work both on Fabriano 5 (old batch) or Arches, but other papers are fine as well.

**Brushes** – sable brushes are great for fine detailed work. There are various good watercolor brushes available such as Raphael 8048 or Windsor & Newton Series 7. I like working with brushes from Da Vinci – maestro kolinsky 10, size 2. I do not paint with the smallest sizes. The brush hairs are not too long and in my experience the brush stays very pointy during painting details.

**Paint** – I use paint that is in the top two categories for light-fastness. Some examples of paint manufacturers are Daniel Smith, Windsor & Newton, Schmincke, M. Graham & Co. and others, but keep in mind that these paint manufacturers produce different types of paint. For example, ‘professional’ or ‘student’ paint, permanent or non-permanent, sometimes they change their products for many reasons or due to circumstances not under their control. Always check your paints. At the moment I use Windsor & Newton artist’s watercolor: Winsor yellow, Indian yellow, Permanent rose, Perylene maroon, French ultramarine and Burnt Umber.

### Other useful materials:

Sketching paper, tracing paper, graphite pencil, eraser, your paint palette/dish, your little water jar and cotton towel. A magnifying lens is optional, but very handy. Some artists like to work on a drawing board/ foam board, or have a folded board to put behind their specimen, but this is optional. Sometimes it is easier to study the subject if there is no interrupting background and a white or black folded board is placed behind the specimen. Please bring other personal items you normally use when drawing and painting and do not forget to bring a good portable battery-operated lamp!



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## BIO:

Inspired by the extraordinary world of plants, Esmée Winkel captures plant stories with paint, from rare orchids growing on mountain tops to unique gentians in plant collections. Her artwork has received among others RHS Gold medals 2013, 2016, 2018, the ASBA Botanical Illustrator Award and the Linnean Society of London Jill Smythies award. Her paintings have been collected and exhibited around the world and recently she published her book 'Hyacintorchis', a book about the discovery of a new orchid in the Netherlands.