



What is Botanical Art?

Botanical art is a scientific record and botanically accurate image to enable the identification of a plant.

Botanical illustrations are made from live / dried plant specimens. Typically, the illustration will depict ALL relevant aspects of the plant, including the life cycle, to assist in accurate identification. The drawing frequently includes relevant

dissections for species identification. It will also include any damage caused by pests and diseases. Botanical illustrations help scientists classify and understand plants and their properties. Plants are essential to our existence, and it is therefore vital we understand and look after them.

Line Drawing: We will



Composition (Potatoes and



Proportion: ensuring that the sizing is right (the

Key Vocabulary	Definition
Botanical Illustration	A drawn, scientific representation of a plant.
Botanist	An expert in or student of the scientific study of plants.
Bleeding	When two colours merge into each other.
Layering	Building up colour gradually by placing colours on top of already dry colours.
Weak colour	Created by using more water than pigment.
Strong colour	Created by using less water and drier brush.
Composition	The way the image is set out. The arrangement of the different

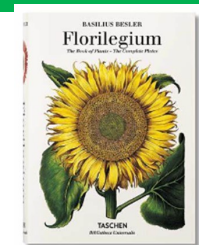
Artists' and publisher's work we looked at...



Elizabeth Blackwell (1699-1758) - Scottish illustrator who created 'A Curious Herbal' - a reference book for physicians.



Beatrix Potter (1866-1943) - English writer, illustrator, natural scientist, and conservationist. She is best known for her children's books featuring animals, such as The Tale



Basilius Besler 1561-1629 compiled a book - 'Hortus Eystettensis' He changed botanical illustration and the course of its future development.