



Year 3– Botanical Illustration

Big question: How can you explain a flower?

Key Concept: Art can be used to represent scientific understanding.

What is Botanical Art?

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

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. Botanical illustrations help scientists classify and understand plants and their properties.

Key skills:

Watercolour painting: We will be experimenting with watercolours and developing our application techniques including layering and bleeding.

Line Drawing: We will be studying plants and images closely and carefully creating line drawings of plants from images and real life.



Composition (Potatoes and lemons): Using sketchy, loosely drawn shapes to plot where different parts go.



Key Vocabulary

Definition

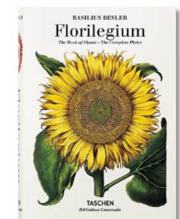
Botanical Illustration	A drawn, scientific representation of a plant.
Botanist	An expert in or student of the scientific study of plants.
Bleeding	When two colours merge into each other.
Layering	Building up colour gradually by placing colours on top of already dry colours.
Weak colour	Created by using 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 elements on the page.
Proportion	The size and position of parts of the whole image in relation to one another.

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

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



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



Beatrix Potter (1866-1943) - English writer, illustrator, natural scientist, and conservationist. Best known for her children's book 'The Tale of Peter Rabbit'