

The Kew Book of Botanical Illustration (paperback edition)

Christabel King

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Key Selling Points

- This meticulous guide covers all aspects of botanical art and illustration and is endorsed by the world-famous Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew
- The previous hardback edition has sold over 15,000 copies
- Christabel King is an eminent and acclaimed botanical illustrator, well-known for her work in *Curtis's Botanical Magazine*
- Flowers and botanicals are a popular subject for artists of all abilities.

Description

'This is botanical illustration at the highest level.' – *The Artist*

Christabel King is the foremost botanical artist at the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew, world leaders in the study and preservation of plant species.

Here she shares her passion for depicting plants, both in scientific illustrations and in looser botanical art.

This inspiring guide covers everything you need to know: choose a subject and create a vibrant composition; accurately sketch, shade and colour leaves, flowers, cacti and more; finally, press and preserve your own treasured specimens. A chapter on travel drawing gives a flavour of the author's worldwide experience, and there are many of her beautiful plates from the prestigious *Curtis's Botanical Magazine*. There is a helpful section on suitable subjects for beginners and a glossary of terms, to get you started in the beautiful art of botanical illustration.

About the Author

Kew's chief botanical artist, and one of Kew's elite band of practitioners, Christabel King has been working as an illustrator at Kew for 40 years. In 1975 she began painting for their prestigious *Curtis's Botanical Magazine* (the longest-running botanical magazine – first edition 1787), after achieving a degree in botany and scientific illustration. She runs successful workshops and courses at Kew and is highly skilled and acclaimed for her work. Christabel lives in Twickenham, Middlesex, UK.

About the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

The Royal Botanic Gardens Kew is a world-famous scientific organization and home to two elegant gardens in the South East of England – Kew Gardens in South West London and Wakehurst Place in West Sussex which also houses Kew's Millennium Seed Bank. Kew Gardens is a recognized World Heritage Site, with stunning glasshouses and a rich history of royal heritage interwoven with the development of modern-day plant science and sustainable development.

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Reviews Anticipated in:


The Artist
Leisure Painter
Artists & Illustrators
Paint Magazine
Artbookreview.net

Example spreads from the book

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Choosing the subject

Choosing the subject for a drawing is probably the most important part of the creative process. In this chapter, we will explore a range of the ideas you can bring to the table, from a simple sketch to a detailed botanical illustration. We will also look at the various ways in which you can choose your subject, from a simple sketch to a detailed botanical illustration. We will also look at the various ways in which you can choose your subject, from a simple sketch to a detailed botanical illustration.

If you are looking for an idea for a drawing, the best place to start is with a simple sketch. This is a good way to explore a range of ideas and to see what you like. You can also look at the various ways in which you can choose your subject, from a simple sketch to a detailed botanical illustration.

Choosing plant material

Try to find healthy material without damage to the plant. Botanical and garden flowers tend to be the best choice. Avoid flowers that are wilted or damaged. If you are using a microscope, make sure you have a good understanding of the technique. This is a good way to explore a range of ideas and to see what you like.

Collecting and keeping it fresh

Remember to take care of the material. Keep it in a cool, dark place. Use a plastic bag to keep it fresh. This is a good way to explore a range of ideas and to see what you like.

Florists' flowers


These are usually highly bred for decoration and are often available at florists. They are a good choice for a drawing. They are a good way to explore a range of ideas and to see what you like.

Garden flowers

These are usually highly bred for decoration and are often available at florists. They are a good choice for a drawing. They are a good way to explore a range of ideas and to see what you like.

Wild flowers


These are usually highly bred for decoration and are often available at florists. They are a good choice for a drawing. They are a good way to explore a range of ideas and to see what you like.



Travel drawings

The best way to draw in the field is to use a simple, portable sketchbook. This is a good way to explore a range of ideas and to see what you like.

Try to find healthy material without damage to the plant. Botanical and garden flowers tend to be the best choice. Avoid flowers that are wilted or damaged. If you are using a microscope, make sure you have a good understanding of the technique. This is a good way to explore a range of ideas and to see what you like.



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Wild flowers

Wild flowers are a great choice for a drawing. They are a good way to explore a range of ideas and to see what you like.

Try to find healthy material without damage to the plant. Botanical and garden flowers tend to be the best choice. Avoid flowers that are wilted or damaged. If you are using a microscope, make sure you have a good understanding of the technique. This is a good way to explore a range of ideas and to see what you like.



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