



VIRGINIA ROBINSON GARDENS BOTANICAL ART GROUP
2010 SCHEDULE
MARGARET BEST : INSTRUCTOR



The Virginia Robinson Gardens, situated in Beverly Hills, is one of the best kept secrets in the Public Gardens venue.

The estate of Virginia Robinson was bequeathed to the County of Los Angeles and is comprised of her home and gardens. The gardens have several major areas including one of the most important palm groves in America, a formal Italian Garden, a rose garden and several other charming and delightful areas. The Gardens are open to the public by appointment and docent tours are available. Classes are held in the stunning Pool Pavilion.



Under the auspices of the Friends of Robinson Garden, Botanical Art classes have been offered for the past nine years. Anne-Marie Evans, a renowned teacher from England and Margaret Best, a highly respected artist of Botanical Art and teacher from Canada, have nurtured the art at the Gardens and now it is felt that the time has come to provide a fuller curriculum for persons interested in Botanical Art.

The following schedule is best suited to students that have already participated in Botanical Art classes but beginner enquiries are welcome.

For further information please email the Friends of Robinson Gardens at: friendsofvrg@gmail.com or their website www.robinsongardens.org

We look forward to your enquiries.

Tania Norris
Co-ordinator
Botanical Art Program

FRIENDS OF VIRGINIA ROBINSON GARDENS
1008 Elden Way, Beverly Hills, Ca 90210



Permission to use images granted to Virginia Robinson Gardens by the artist, Margaret Best
(c)Margaret Best 2010

VIRGINIA ROBINSON GARDENS BOTANICAL ART GROUP

2010 SCHEDULE

MARGARET BEST ; INSTRUCTOR

Registered students will receive a suggested supplies list of paints and other items required for the class. If wished, an extended topic and exercises as homework will be provided and will be reviewed by Margaret Best at the next class.

MARCH: CLASS PLUS: 3-day

Topic: Mixing green and painting leaves A class to create an understanding of paint options available for mixing green. Students will explore ways to achieve natural-looking greens with mixing blue and yellow as well as mixing with convenient greens. Exercises involve color matching a variety of different leaf colors, shapes and surface textures. Basic leaf structure and morphology is also covered with strategies for drawing and painting with accuracy.

JUNE 8, 9 and 10. CLASS PLUS: 3-day class

Topic: Watercolor brush techniques for Botanical Art

Basic plant elements such as petals and simple fruits will be selected for understanding the application of washes, glazes, color blending, color layering for increasing intensity. How to build form and shadow while avoiding making muddy colors and overworking the paper surface will be covered, as well as wet brush, dry brush and lifting techniques. The class will also focus on brushes and papers best suited to the various techniques required in creating Botanical Art.

AUGUST 4, 5, 6. CLASS PLUS 3-day class

Topic: Botanical Art Composition 1

How to inject strong eye appeal into a Botanical Art painting is often challenging from subject to subject, no matter how skilled the artist. Margaret will lead the students through exercises designed to train the eye on how to plan and create visually appealing and natural compositions. Traditional compositions and contemporary works will be studied to expand the students awareness of how to influence the viewer. The impact of color placement, areas of dark and light, positive and negative spaces will all be covered.

SEPTEMBER: Dates tba: CLASS PLUS 3-day class

Topic: How and When to add Details

How to build washes to get the right intensity and give value to the subject
How “not to” achieve a muddy color and destroy your paper by overworking
and when to add the details that give final painting its personality and more.

NOVEMBER: CLASS PLUS: Dates tba - 3-day class

Topic: Full Flower Painting

Students should have prepared a final detailed drawing for review by Margaret. This will be used for a full and detailed water color study, utilizing all technical elements learnt throughout the 2010 program. A special emphasis will be placed on innovative composition and accurate use of color.