



'Flowers of Crete' Botanic Art Workshop
3rd - 10th May 2022

(This is a sample itinerary and can be adapted to students' abilities and requirements. Other dates are available on request)

Cost per person of 7 day course: £1,200

Including workshops, field trips, all materials and half board accommodation, but excluding flights

Learn all you need to know to understand the techniques needed to produce your own beautiful botanic drawings of flowers and leaves in the superb setting of the Mirambello Bay and Elounda. The course is led by artist and writer, Julia Jones, a Fellow of the Linnaean Society of London. Julia has a passion for the native flora of the island and her work can be found in private collections around the world.



Julia is a self-taught artist and believes that anyone with a desire to produce their own botanic work is capable of unlocking their own creativity. Julia is also President and Founder of the charitable organisation 'Flowers of Crete' which seeks to promote conservation and environmental education on Crete.



Ophrys fusca – watercolour painting © Julia Jones

This course is suitable for beginners and improvers alike.



Mother and daughter from Norway on a beginners' botanical art course

Day One:

Arrivals and greetings

Day Two:

Morning:

Breakfast

Session One: Trip onto the local headland to draw and photograph flowers and leaves.

Coffee

Session Two: Understanding and choosing materials for fine drawing and watercolour painting. This is a chance to try different papers, paints and painting mediums.

Lunch

Session Three: Basic drawing techniques – leaf and flower shapes. After a few fun exercises to begin to train the eye, students will be shown how to draw simple leaf and flower shapes



Dinner

Day Three:

Breakfast

Session Four: Field trip to Mount Oxa to find wild orchids, anemones and cyclamen. The hillsides around Elounda are covered with wild orchids in spring. A chance to draw and photograph these beautiful flowers in situ.



Lunch

Session Five: Preparing and stretching paper, choosing subject and preliminary drawings. Before starting to paint it is necessary to soak and stretch paper. Whilst it is drying there is a chance to begin first drawings of chosen flowers and/or leaves.

Dinner

Slideshow and talk on Endemic Cretan Flora by Julia Jones. The island's flora is a focus for botanists and artists from around the world. In this slideshow students will get a feeling of the wealth of species to be seen throughout the year.

Day Four:

Breakfast

Session Six: Colour mixing and basic watercolour techniques. Using their workbooks, students will learn to mix a range of colours suitable for botanic painting and experiment with washes, lines and stipples.

Coffee

Session Seven: Refining and finishing master drawing. In order to complete the master drawing students will study each others' work and with guidance from Julia, will refine and prepare their drawing for transfer.

Lunch

Session Eight: Transferring master drawing to workbook and prepared paper. In order to keep a complete record of their work,

students are encouraged to keep a workbook which will contain copies of their master drawings, colour matching and notes

Dinner

Day Five:

Breakfast

Session Nine: Starting workbook and colour matching and colour mixing for chosen subject. Students will begin to choose and mix colours for their final work.

Coffee

Session Ten: Continuing colour mixing and recording their results, students will decide on their final colours and record pigment ratios for obtaining consistent results.

Lunch

Session Eleven: Laying down first glaze and understanding the use of light in watercolour work, students will begin to build up colour washes on their final project.

Dinner

Day Six:

Breakfast

Session Twelve: Understanding modelling washes and laying down first modelling wash. This session will show students how to obtain a three dimensional effect in their work.

Coffee

Session Thirteen: Laying down subsequent washes, students will begin to see the effects of multiple washes on the realistic quality of their work.

Lunch

Session Fourteen: Slideshow on the development of botanic illustration from early times – Julia Jones. From its earliest beginnings in Ancient Greece and on the ceramics and frescoes of the Minoans, to the more modern day work of Georgia O’Keefe and other

artists, this short slideshow will give insight and inspiration to students.

Dinner



Day Seven:

Breakfast

Session Fifteen:
Techniques for shading and finishing. These techniques will bring the work together and complete the work.

Coffee

Session Sixteen (Final Session): Beginning shading and learning how to depict dewdrops and the shine on fruits and berries.
Lunch





Departures



Detail of endemic *Orchis papilionacea* ssp *alibertis*
© Julia Jones

'Julia is a botanical artist, who taught us watercolour painting one day at her beautiful Cretan village stone-house, the next day under an almond tree up in the mountains, another day we were on hilltop overlooking Spinalonga. We had lunches in small mountain villages and on hidden beaches. We looked for orchids and she learned us

about the flowers and plants of Crete. It is the best vacation we ever had, and we are definitely going back next year.'

Bente and Marijit Lundemo, Norway

Places are strictly limited. If you would like to secure your place, please contact julia@flowersofcrete.info. A 20% deposit is required on booking with the balance payable eight weeks before the commencement of the course.



Tulipa cretica – endemic Cretan tulip