

American Society of Botanical Artists

25th Annual Meeting and Conference
Pittsburgh 2019

Fall Ephemera on Vellum... Things that exist, used or enjoyed for only a short time

Helen Allen

Tuesday and Wednesday, October 15-16, 2019
9:00 am – 4:00 pm
(full-day classes include a one-hour lunch break)



Fall is a time of transition between seasons where many flowers turn from brilliant and rich hues to soft and subtle tones as they dry. Join Helen in drawing and capturing a sampler of flowers in watercolor on vellum that may be enjoyed forever.

Supply List

- Paints: Please bring your usual paints, materials and equipment. Winsor and Newton paints are particularly suitable for painting on vellum (especially if you have older paints in pans) as the way they are blended, extruded and allowed to dry naturally prevent the gloopy look sometimes seen in works on vellum.
- Brushes: Miniature brushes in small sizes, 1, 0, 00, 000 – Rosemary brushes are excellent as are Winsor & Newton and da Vinci miniature brushes. Larger brushes with a good point are also very useful
- Vellum: Some of you like to paint on Kelmscott and others on Manuscript. A piece 8" x 10" should be large enough to paint a sampler. Small pieces and off cuts are great for color notes.
- Lighting: It is always useful to bring a portable battery-operated light such as an Ott Lite

I look forward to capturing the brilliance of late summer and early fall flowers and to catch their fading beauty to last forever.

If you are able to bring live material and also some dried, not pressed, flowers that will be wonderful. In trying to avoid nuts and leaves maybe small birds' eggs and feathers will add to the sampler.

I will bring blown quails' eggs and feathers – I think I can do that but if you have these things bring them along.

Instructor's Bio

After a number of years teaching botanical art Helen opened her school, the Chelsea School of Botanical Art. She delights in teaching abroad, and in 2018 she took part in an exhibition in the Netherlands. Her paintings may be found in florilegia, public and private collections.