

ASSIGNMENT // BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATION IN PENCIL

We will be creating technical, botanical illustrations for this first assignment. The objective here is to translate three-dimensional objects to a two-dimensional space, capturing the depth and alive-ness of real life. In order to do this, a range of pencils and erasers must be used. Graphite is, one imagines, a primordial tool and most often the beginning tool for any illustrator; thus, its mastery is imperative. The botanical illustration project offers a chance to demonstrate precision, clarity and information in a beautiful, diagrammatical way.

OBJECTIVE //

This assignment is an intense study of tone, shape and line through the use of a range of graphite pencils, from soft to hard. The most important objective is that you explore and use a vast range of tonalities (and thus various pencil types) thereby demonstrating your ability to see and translate depth, dimension and tonal range.

GUIDELINES //

The Course Schedule (see Syllabus) outlines a detailed timetable for what readings are due when. The essential progression will be:

// Photograph of a Plant

*Black and white is ideal, or color with a clear range of tone. There should be a range of textures and surfaces, as well as an interesting light source.*

*\*Note: you may also draw from an actual plant.*

// Thumbnails + Composition

*Thumbnails are small drawings, about 2 x 2 inches, through which an artist is able to quickly see what compositions might be more successful than others. Thumbs are about quick analyses of the canvas; nothing detailed is drawn in them, just blocks of black indicating where something might go. Find the best composition possible for your plant.*

// Sketches

*After determining which thumbnails will be the most successful, choose those and develop larger scale sketches to further analyze the placement of various textures, lines, negative space, shapes, etc. Sketches should be drawn to scale but approximately 8 x 10 inches.*

// Practice!

*During sketching as well as after, experiment with various techniques of the medium. In this case, see what kinds of marks you are able to render from the pencils. See how dark the softest pencil is. What kind of marks can you communicate through your medium?*

// Final Drawing

*Your final drawing is 18 x 24 inches.*

// Presentation

*Spray fixative - OUTSIDE - on final drawing. After fixing your illustration, mount the drawing onto black mat board using mounting spray. All spraying is to be done outside. There should be a 2 or 3" margin on three sides of the mounting board, and a 1/2 or 1" larger space on the bottom. Lastly, create a black flap to cover the illustration for protection. Techniques for all of this will be shown in class.*

ASSIGNMENT TIMELINE

Date	What's Due
1/19	Discuss plans for illustration
1/21	Thumbs + sketches
1/26	Some work on final drawing
1/28	Critique!