

Activity Sheet:

Make A Botanical Artwork



What is a Botanical Illustration?



Chrysanthemum Flower, Indra Dugar, Watercolor on paper, 1989

Botanical illustration is the art of depicting the form, colour, and details of plant life.

Before there were high-resolution images and other digital tools to record the large variety of flora in nature, these illustrations were highly sought after and used particularly by physicians, pharmacists and scientists for study and documentation.

The artists of this genre looked closely at various parts of a plant and replicated it in extreme detail.

Today, botanical illustrations are back in trend again and we see them everywhere - from our phone wallpapers to things we use in our homes.

How about getting inspired by this wonderful genre of botanical art and making one of your own?

STEP 1

Go out to the garden in your locality or park and pick a plant you want to work with. If you don't know what plant it is, try to find out from someone!

STEP 2

Make rough sketches of the various parts of this plant or tree. Make sure you include the leaf, fruit and flower(if any), texture of the stem or trunk, seeds, and anything else that you might notice.



STEP 3

Make notes about the locality where this plant/tree is located, how it looks at that time of the day or year and what insect or bird species frequent it.

STEP 4

If possible, you can take samples from the species for reference or pictures on your phone. Finally, combine all your sketches and notes, read up more on the species and create your final composition that includes all these elements. To help you get started with ideas, here is an example that we made!



Don't forget to take photographs of your creations and DM it to us on Instagram @mapbangalore. You can also email them to us at education@map-india.org