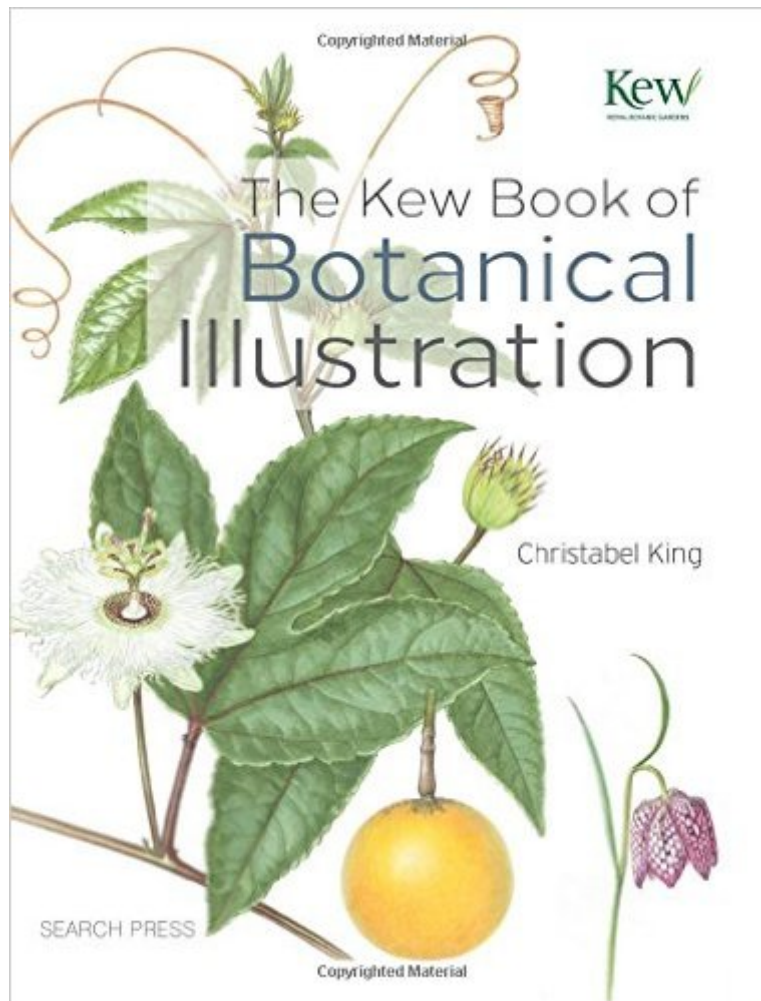


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# The Kew Book Of Botanical Illustration



## Synopsis

Kew is eminent worldwide in botanical science and the study and preservation of plant species, and Christabel King has been doing illustrations for them for 40 years and is their foremost botanical artist. Here she explains both scientific botanical illustration and the looser botanical art, and covers materials, collecting and preserving plant specimens, drawing and painting techniques, magnification, using dividers, drawing from life, composition, light and shade and transferring drawings. She goes on to discuss painting leaves, flowers, cactii and succulents, wildflowers, trees and plates for Curtis's Botanical magazine. A chapter on travel drawings gives a flavour of the author's passion and worldwide experience. There is a helpful section on suitable subjects for beginners and a glossary of terms. The text is highly illustrated throughout with beautiful paintings.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (15 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

This new book by Christabel King on Botanical Illustration is one of the best books on the topic I have ever read. This book constitutes the 21st Botanical Illustration book I have read in the past 3 years, and probably the BEST! Ms. King is a Botanical Illustrator for Kew Gardens (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew) since 1975. She is truly a consummate expert at her art. Her book covers so many important topical areas that are essential to the Botanical Illustrator as well as the Natural Botanical Artist. While Ms. King is mostly concerned with the technical art of Botanical Illustration in her book, she also pays attention to the artistic naturalist who is more interested in creating art that is inspired by the natural beauty which we find all around us in living flowers and plants. In this book, Ms. King conveys methods and expertise that has developed over a lifetime of Botanical Illustration. Her book covers specifically the following items in her chapter headings: Materials, Subject Choice,

Work Space, Choosing Technique, Composition, Shading, Magnification, Watercolor, Gouache, Pen & Ink, Correcting Mistakes, Leaves, Flowers, Specimen Preservation and Much More. Not only is Ms. King a true expert in the art of Botanical Illustration, but she is one of those rare artists who despite her incredible expertise, is humble and giving in her book. She gives all the information that she feels is necessary for the artist/illustrator to create both technical drawings and artistic renderings of her subjects. Yet despite her extensive knowledge and expertise, she is humble and helpful. While this book is not for the beginner, it is for anyone who has decided that they wish to commit to high quality Botanical Illustrations and renderings.

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