



Drawing From Nature: Bones & Blossoms G26090314

with Helen Byers
September 20 -26, 2026

Welcome, everyone!

I am writing to welcome you to our September workshop, "**Drawing from Nature: Bones & Blossoms**," September 20–26, 2026, at Ghost Ranch.

Thank you for registering for this course, which is one of my favorites to teach. Practicing techniques in charcoal and colored pencil (which I will demonstrate), we will draw desert bones and plants. Interesting desert plants, if past bloom &/or in photos, will still intrigue us in September, and I will share my inspiring collection of bones! Most of us will choose to work at individual tables outdoors, under the portal on the courtyard of Casa del Sol. There will also be limited space indoors.

There is a full kitchen at Casa del Sol, including refrigerator and microwave, and you are welcome to bring snacks or foods you wish to prepare there. Coffee, tea, and drinking water will be provided. If you have special food requirements for the Dining Hall meals (breakfast, lunch, & dinner, to which we will carpool), please make them known when you check in at the Welcome Center (on Sunday, Sept 20, at 3 PM).



Please find the list of **Materials** required for this workshop from the course listing on the Ghost Ranch website. Feel free to contact me by email if you have a question about anything on it. If ordering online from dickblick.com (as I highly recommend), I suggest doing so well in advance to allow time for shipping. If you are flying and/or find it difficult to transport the papers, let me know well ahead of time, and I will bring them for purchase in class.

I look forward to sharing this creative time with you!

Helen

Helen Byers

helizabyers@gmail.com (email)

helenbyers.com (website)

Materials to Bring

NOTE: *For substantial savings—often 40% or more, I recommend ordering materials from Dick Blick: dickblick.com Alternatively, Artisan is a good retail art supply store in Santa Fe and Albuquerque.*

- 2H, & 4B graphite drawing pencils (*1 each, any brand; I like Staedtler or Faber Castell*)
- General's Charcoal Pencil Drawing Kit* (Blick #20418-1009) (**includes kneadable eraser & white "charcoal" pencil*)
- Canson Mi-Teintes drawing paper: 2 sheets, 19x25", Pearl Gray (Blick #10710-2401), *cut in half*
- Arches watercolor paper: 1 sheet, 22x30", Bright White Hot Press, 140 lb. (Blick #10033-1042), *cut in half*
- Tracing paper (any brand), 12x18"
- Tombow "Mono Zero" Elastomer Eraser, 2.3mm (Blick #21576-9330)
- Fictis Mechanical Eraser (Blick #21597-2020)
- Faber-Castell Grip Trio Sharpener (*for colored pencils*) (Blick #21430-1001)



- Faber-Castell "Polychromos" Colored Pencils
(Please do not substitute other brands. The technique I teach requires these, which are not waxy.)
 - At minimum, a set of 12 (Blick #20561-0129), and...
 - Dark Sepia #175 (Blick #20538-8080), and...
 - Cold Gray III #232 (Blick #20538-2830)
- Faber-Castell "Albrecht Durer" Watercolor Pencils: a set of 12 (Blick #20567-0129)
- 1 Sakura Koi Round Water Brush, size 6, medium (Blick # 09094-1020)
- Caran d'Ache Palette Aquarelle (Blick #04862-1025) (for use with watercolor pencils)
- Prismacolor Colorless Blender Pencil (Blick #20508-1010)
- See-through Plastic Ruler
- Artist's Tape (you won't need much; I use white, 1/4" or 1/2")
- Paper towels or a scrap of cotton cloth
- Feather or desk broom to sweep away erasures
- "Frog" prong flower holder (optional)
- Cell phone, tablet, or digital camera (optional; very useful)

Provided in class:

- willow (vine) charcoal
- blending stumps & tortillons (for charcoal)
- matte spray fixative (for charcoal)
- Glassine interleaving paper (to keep drawings from smudging)

I will bring to share (bring if you have):

- embossing tools
- drawing board or piece of foamcore, approx. 18"x24"

And...don't forget these Ghost Ranch essentials:

- sun hat
- sunscreen
- sunglasses
- insect repellent
- drinking water bottle
- sturdy, comfortable footwear (for walking on uneven ground)



- layers for warm (70°F-ish) days & cool nights
- rain jacket (just in case)

Let me know a.s.a.p. if you can't bring something & would like me to obtain & bring it for you.

Schedule for the Week

Sunday, Sept 20:

- 3:00 PM Check-in at Welcome Center (There you will receive your room assignment, directions to Casa del Sol, and more info about the Ranch. After check-in, go to Casa del Sol.)
- 5:30-6:30 Dinner (at Dining Hall), followed by Orientation & return to Casa del Sol

Monday through Friday, Sept 21-25:

- 7:30-8:30 Breakfast (Make your own at Casa del Sol or carpool to the Dining Hall)
- 9:00-12:00 Workshop Instruction
- Noon-1:30 Lunch (at Dining Hall)
- 1:30-5:30 Free time to continue working semi-independently or to hike, take a Ranch tour or horseback ride, or just relax
- 5:30-6:30 Dinner (at Dining Hall)
- 7:00-8:30 Evening activities: nature walks & campfire camaraderie

Saturday, Sept 26:

- 7:30-8:30 Breakfast
- 10:00 Check-out time