



PLANTS ON THE EDGE

A Botanical ArtWorkshop

In Canada's most easterly province, bordering the Atlantic Ocean - Newfoundland and Labrador

At Newfoundland's Irish Loop

July 5 - 10, 2026



ABOUT THE COURSE

- July 5-10, 2026
- The Wilds Resort at Salmonier River, [Salmonier Line, Route 90.NL](#)
- 16 spaces available

Plants on the Edge is a five-day botanical art retreat led by **Mary Dillion** (Ireland) and **Margaret Walsh Best** (Canada) — two artists from either side of the Atlantic. This retreat is designed for artists who wish to deepen their practice through sustained field engagement. Participants are invited to slow down, look closely, and develop a richer understanding of how working directly with living plants in their environment can inform both artistic insight and intention.

Through a thoughtful balance of guided fieldwork and studio-based sessions, Margaret and Mary will support artists as they move from location sketching and observational drawing to refined botanical watercolour paintings. Individual goals will be encouraged, with one-to-one guidance tailored to each participant's experience and aspirations.

This workshop is for botanical artists who seek more than technique — who long for exploration, excellence, and connection. Open to artists from Canada, the US, Ireland, and beyond.

The retreat will include:

- Guided field studies along Newfoundland's Irish Loop
- In-depth observational drawing
- Botanical watercolour instruction — techniques and tips
- Individual goal setting and one-to-one tutoring
- Reflection on plants, place, and protection

Non-painting guests accompanying the artist: we are more than happy to welcome non-painting guests, accompanying partners, family or friends.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR WORKSHOP](#)



Important Information for participants

- The Wilds is offering special promotional accommodation rates for workshop participants, based on room type and single or shared occupancy (rooms starting at \$159 + 15% tax CAD per night).
- After registering for the workshop, The Wilds accommodation promo code will be provided to participants upon registration confirmation. Please use this code when booking your accommodations.
- A limited number of rooms are being held specifically for workshop participants. Some rooms include two beds; please request this option if needed during booking.
- Meals may be arranged through **The Wilds Resort**; please contact the resort directly for details.
- More information will be sent to registrants.

[Click here for the Hotel booking page](#)

Please note: The discount code is only available after workshop registration.

Non-Painting Guests & Activities

Non-painting guests, including partners, family members, or friends, are welcome to accompany workshop participants.

The Wilds offers a wide range of activities to enjoy during your stay, making it easy for everyone to create an unforgettable experience. Options include golf, swimming, and scenic walking and hiking trails, among many others.

[Click here to explore activities at The Wilds](#)



[The Wilds Resort at Salmonier River](#)- Salmonier Line, Route 90

[Click Here to View in Google Maps](#)

[Click here to explore NL tourism](#)



MEET YOUR INSTRUCTORS



Margaret Walsh Best

Canadian artist Margaret Walsh Best is captivated by the full process of creating botanical art. From the moment a plant literally 'stops her in her tracks' the uniqueness of each plant unfolds through careful observation, thoughtful drawings and paintings, and invariably builds a deeper respect for the plant world. With a practice rooted in art and plant knowledge, she delights in helping others discover the extraordinary detail, structure, and quiet character within each plant subject. Her deeply rooted respect for the plant world evolved naturally from a young age by being informally introduced to morphology and ethnobotany by her Irish-born grandmother in the family's ocean-front garden in Kingman's Cove, Newfoundland and Labrador, her home province. That approach to plants that blends curiosity, science, and sensitivity continues to guide her art practice. A major delight is guiding others to look closely, draw with intention, and gain confidence in rendering form, light, texture, and subtle colour. As artist, curator and educator, Margaret's exhibitions and workshops have explored such plant themes as biodiversity, folklore and history. She has exhibited and tutored from western North America to Europe, is a member of several botanical art organizations worldwide and was the founding president of the Botanical Art Society of Newfoundland and Labrador. At home her current project centres on native/indigenous and introduced naturalized plants, which further her wonderment of the natural world.



Mary Dillon

Capturing the essence of a plant with its sensuality and frailty defines the work of Mary Dillon. Mary has a fascination for botanical art as a personal process while at the same time striving for excellence in her art practice. Her work was chosen as the signature image for the recent National Gallery of Ireland exhibition, *Drawn From Nature* and the subsequent publication by Patricia Butler. Mary's work belongs in the collection of Dr. Shirley Sherwood and in the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation in Pittsburgh. Mary was the founding Chairperson of the Irish Society of Botanical Artists. Her work, 'Abundance, Punica granata', was awarded 'Best in Show' at the ASBA 25 th International Exhibition in New York. Mary is an experienced botanical art tutor and she has been teaching botanical art worldwide for many years. This will be Mary's second visit to teach botanical art in Newfoundland.



MORE INFORMATION

If other information becomes available, details will be posted here.

If you have any questions please contact Maragaret Walsh Best: walshbest@gmail.com or Mary Dillon : marydillonbotanicalart@gmail.com

CANCELLATION POLICY

If cancellation is necessary before March 13, 2026, 15% of the Workshop Fee will be held. If cancellation occurs after March 20, there will be no Workshop Fee refund, unless the space is filled by another wait-listed participant.

