

# Botanical Arts

[Sarahboynton.net](http://Sarahboynton.net)

**Botanical jewelry** - designed and created from all dried plant material that may be artificially treated to resemble wearable jewelry in size and function. Made of botanical materials, such as peas, mustard seeds, cactus branches, orange rind and other natural plant life.

- Non-plant material (i.e. cardboard, metal, twine, string, cording, etc.) may be used for construction but **must not** show. No mechanics or structural base material may be visible.
- Pieces should be accurately scaled and include realistic details such as clasps and fasteners.
- Entries are judged on the principles and elements of design, craftsmanship and originality when creating. (Principles: Balance, contrast, dominance, proportion, scale and rhythm. Elements: Form, light, line, color, texture, pattern, space and size). Scale of Points: **(NGC)** out of 100 points total: Design 48; Craftsmanship and Techniques 24; Conformance to schedule 14; and Distinction 14. **(GCA)** out of 100 points total: Design 35; Craftsmanship 30; Creativity 15; Interpretation of theme 10; and Distinction 10.
- Select plant material for shapes & textures that will support the design and structure of your creation.
- Treatment of plant material: Paint, lacquer, and gloss finishes should be carefully applied in thin coats. Check the schedule regarding the use of glitter/glitter nail polish.
- **Permitted:** Dried flowers, foliage, seeds, pods, peas, beans, corn, corn husk, nuts (in or out of shells), grapevine twigs, basket reeds, etc. Many things can be found in the spice aisle, (allspice, mustard seeds, coriander seeds) especially in bulk foods, others right in your back yard. Many perennials have interesting dried pods after blooming, ex: trumpet vine, wisteria seeds & pods. Bark, lichen, samaras, tulip poplar, acorns, ash seeds, hickory nut.
- **Not permitted:** artificial, **endangered**, and locally invasive plant material may not be used (**check invasive and endangered lists for the State where the show is held which may differ from your State**). Wood or any other plant material may not be carved into figural forms; such forms must be assembled. Any material may be cut, incised or shaped to enhance artistic effect.
- Start by looking over your schedule, plan the size of your piece as it will look in space allotted and come up with a design that is the appropriate size. Study real jewelry for design inspiration.
- To bring out details, try using a color wash over your base color as in this Jade Pendant (dark color thinned down with water). Paint the color wash on then carefully dab with paper towel.
- ALWAYS make a card with samples of the dried, untreated material you used for future reference.
- When there is a curve to your design, it is best to apply the plant material directly on the curved base rather than on a flat surface otherwise there will be large gaps between.
- Paint with self-leveling gel to smooth before final paint or sand your piece with very fine sandpaper (1000 grit) and then apply your paint. You can always go back and apply gel and re-coat with paint as needed.
- To preserve the size and shape of your material, try using silica gel and/or microwave dry then seal with something to keep it from absorbing moisture before you paint it. Paint delicate items with the self leveling gel to make them more durable and flexible.



**HAVE FUN and don't be afraid to try something new!!!**

**When schedule allows: GLITTER!!!**

Orly makes a great glitter nail polish called "Tiara"

**For PEARLS:**  
OPI "Kyoto Pearl" nail polish.



**Dremel workstation (Drill press)** Drill sold separately. Helps you to drill or incise material more easily.



**Cut-Off saw** from Micro-Mark helps cut small items with a clean cut.



**Magnification** is helpful, "Optivisor" comes in different magnifications and are VERY useful!



**Golden Clear Leveling Clear Gel**

Great for smoothing out rough surfaces. Generously apply and allow to dry before painting. Can be mixed with paint powders. **Can not** be sanded.



**Silica Gel** for drying flowers and pods either on it's own or in the microwave. Silica gel absorbed the moisture of the flower with little damage to the flower's color and form.



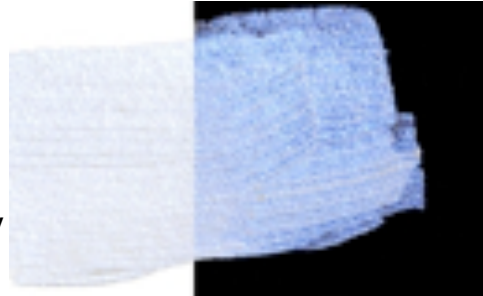
**The right paint is important!** Spray paints are easy to use and allow for great coverage. Sometimes a coat of spray paint will be followed by a brush on application. Automotive paints can be considered as well. Test paint for color and coverage before you use it on your piece. I **love** 24K pure Gold and Super Silver by Design Masters.



**Golden liquid acrylic Iridescent Gold Deep (Fine)** great real gold effect.

## GOLDEN Paints:

1. **Iridescent Acrylics** — Iridescent colors synthetically reproduce natural phenomena, such as the nacreous quality of fish scales and butterfly wings, or the pearlescent effects of certain metals and minerals.
2. **Interference Acrylics** — Interference colors "flip" between a bright opalescent and its complement, depending on the angle of the viewer
3. **Special Iridescent Acrylics** — Mica Flakes, Coarse Alumina and Micaceous Iron Oxide: These special iridescent colors to add a sparkly touch or a distinct texture!



## Gouache Paint-

**Gouache** is designed to be used with opaque methods of **painting**. Great paint for blending and applying gradation to plant material such as this design by Mimi Favre



## Pearl-Ex pigments

Incorporate acrylic paint or clear leveling gel. Gives your piece a pearlized effect.



## Liquid Leaf/Gold Leaf

Liquid Leaf gives any project a rich metallic luster. Just brush on Liquid Leaf for glimmering shimmering highlights.

**Drawback** - you can't touch it too much or the finish will dull and the color will change if any other paint or glue touches it. Liquid leaf pens can help with touch ups.



**Sandpaper-** High grit paper is very useful (500-2000 grit) The higher the number, the finer the paper. You can find ultra fine sandpaper at automotive supply stores





**ArtResin** Epoxy resin that is food grade and low fumes. Two part mixing at a 1:1 ratio. Dries clear but takes at least 24 hours to cure. Great for final coat.

**Glue** - There are several different kinds of glue. Fast grab tacky glue is handy because it is strong and works fast. Crazy glue with a brush applicator is very convenient. I love Gorilla Super Glue GEL as it is easy to work with. Always test paint on glue to make sure it doesn't "react" and cause bubbles.



A jeweler's saw and v block with pin and clamp are very useful for cutting small items such as acorns and pods.



**UV activated Glue-**

Glue is as thin as super glues but will not cure until you shine a UV light on it. Light usually comes with glue. Many different brands, available on line (Amazon has several brands)



Mini bamboo skewers are a great way to apply glue to small areas



**Use a Dremel or small drill** for cutting, drilling and sanding small items. A drill press will help with drilling tiny holes in small material such as peas and lentils. To make tight raffia rope, use a little white glue mixed with water and drill to spin it tight. Tape both ends to a surface and allow to dry before you use.



A "Third Hand" with tweezers helps hold items while you glue/paint.



**Mini Jewelers Tools -**  
Small pliers and flush cutters

Rhododendron  
cv.



Cornus kousa  
(Kousa Dogwood  
flowers)



Phytolacca  
americana  
(pokeweed)



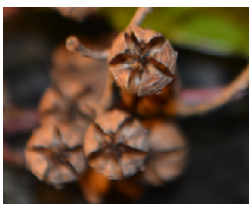
Prunus dulcis  
(almond)



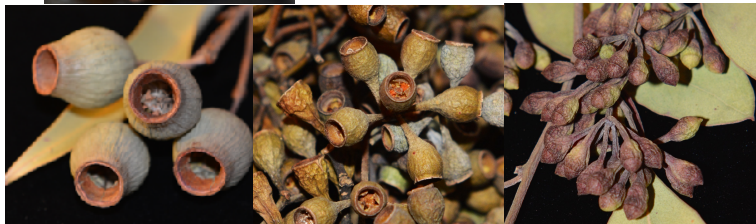
Glycine max  
(soybean)



Pieris seed pods  
(Andromeda)



Eucalyptus cv.



Sesamum  
indicum  
(sesame  
seed)



Illicium verum  
(star anise)



Tree Fungus



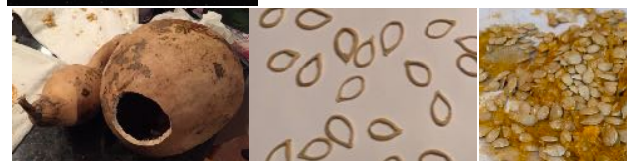
Coriandrum sativum  
(coriander seeds)



Sinapis alba  
(mustard seeds)



Gourds and  
Mellons



Pinus pinea  
(pine nut)



Syzygium  
aromaticum  
(cloves)



Quercus cv.  
(acorn)



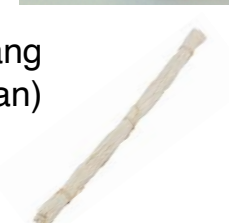
Araucaria  
heterophylla  
(Norfolk Island  
Pine)



Lagerstroemia  
(Crape Myrtle)



Calamus rotang  
(rattan)



Piper nigrum  
(white pepper  
seed)



Macadamia  
integrifolia  
(macadamia  
nut)



Raphia  
(Raffia)



Lens culinaris  
(lentil)



Zizania  
(Wild rice)