



# About the Object



In this drawing, two deep red nectarines hang from a branch. Look closely at the fruits' texture. Notice the thick skin of the nectarines; the splotches of yellow, green, and orange; and the deep groove in the middle. Drawn by Georg Dionysius Ehret, Europe's leading botanical artist in 1750, *Nectarines* is actually an unfinished drawing. Ehret used watercolor to color the nectarines, but he left the leaves uncolored.

Ehret was a botanical artist who took great interest and care in accurately depicting botanical specimens. The details he included would help individuals identify key parts of a fruit or plant. In this drawing, he labeled the color of the nectarines as "Roman red." View other drawings by Ehret in The Huntington's collection, including aloes and lilies: <https://emuseum.huntington.org/people/810/georg-dionysius-ehret/objects>

## More to Explore ...

### CREATE A BOTANICAL DRAWING

Pick a plant, herb, fruit, or vegetable you find interesting and create a close-up botanical drawing with a pencil and paper. Think about the composition of your botanical specimen. Will you include the natural environment like Ehret did, or will you arrange your specimen in a bowl or on a table? Use your pencil to create shading and texture.

### Helpful Terms

**Drawing** – It is a term used to describe a two-dimensional artwork in which a tool is used to make an image on a surface, such as a sheet of paper. These lines can be made with a pencil or pen, or non-linear or tonal marks made with other implements, such as brushes.

**Watercolor** – (brush) There are two types of watercolors: Transparent Watercolor and Opaque Watercolor. Transparent Watercolor is a water-soluble paint; known for its transparent properties, it is incredibly versatile in its ability to create a variety of effects by being layered and pooled. Opaque Watercolor is a watercolor with a "body" (white filler) added to it to make it rich and dark; it is not transparent and creates a look like oil paint. View a watercolor set in The Huntington's collection from circa 1781: <https://hdl.huntington.org/digital/collection/p9539coll1/id/6243/rec/2>

**Graphite** – (pencil) A type of carbon; graphite pencils allow artists to make hard or soft marks, thick or thin or thin lines, and offer a range of values from light to dark.



Make another version of your botanical drawing, but use a different medium! You could use a pen, pastels, watercolors, or even chalk.

## QUESTION CORNER

- Did you try different mediums to make your botanical drawings? If so, did you find one easier to use? Was one better for highlighting details? Which one did you prefer?
- Do you think Ehret's illustration of nectarines looks like an accurate representation? Why or why not?