



## **Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne**

### **Term 4 2020 Online Botanic Art Outline**

**Tuesdays 6 pm – 8 pm**

**Instructor's Name: David Reynolds**

#### **Class Description**

Each student will learn the practical skills required for botanical art in a relaxed and informative environment. Topics covered during the term will include, composition for a dynamic painting, expanded colour theory, graphite drawing techniques and watercolour painting methods. Through demonstration, discussion and homework, each student will learn and practice the techniques used to create accurate drawings and progress to a finished watercolour project.

Many of the techniques used in botanical art, like 'wet on wet' and 'dry brushing', will be carefully explained and demonstrated giving each student confidence in developing their painting and drawing skills.

#### **Outcomes**

The aim of this term is to progress further into composition and planning your painting, along with developing a greater understanding of botanical art techniques and knowing how and when to apply them. Our chosen subject will be an Australian Native flower. During the term we will do a rendering in graphite and progress to a final painting using an opaque dry brush method to capture its character.

#### **Class structure**

This class will be presented each week in a similar format, however occasionally variances will occur. You need to be online for the full two hours of your class. Over the 8 weeks, via live demonstrations we will cover:

1. What makes a dynamic composition and how to apply it
2. Develop skills in using transparent and opaque pigments
3. Explore new techniques in using graphite
4. Expanding our colour theory knowledge
5. Creating a painting in watercolour

Each week time will be set aside to review work, provide feedback, discuss progress, and answer any questions. The remainder of the class will be for putting into practice the theories and skills we cover and working on your artwork independently. It is a good idea to set aside time for yourself between classes to practice the skills and cover homework topics.

**Starting Date of Classes:** Week beginning 5 October 2020

**Term Duration:** 8 weeks (2-hour class each week)

**Digital Platform for Classes:** All classes will be presented using Zoom. The Friends of the Gardens have activated all possible security available via Zoom to ensure the platform is safe to use.

**Please ensure you have downloaded the Zoom app on your computer/iPad well before the class starts. If you have downloaded Zoom previously, check the app does not require any updates by clicking on the App.**

**Computer Setup:** From experience we recommend either a laptop computer or iPad however a desktop computer is also suitable provided you are also able to paint/draw in this space.

Engagement via a mobile phone is not practical as it is very difficult to see the fine details presented during demonstrations.

**Preparation:** If you do not already have painting space set up in your home, choose a quiet space to minimise disruptions. If possible, set up with adequate lighting of your painting area using a desk lamp or other suitable lighting options.

**Materials List:** The materials you will require for your class are:

**Brushes** (*suggestions*)

Round taklon watercolour brushes Sizes #1, 4 & 6

**Paper**

Arches 300gsm smooth hot press watercolour paper (Pad or Loose Sheets)

Tracing paper

Sketch pad (A3)

**Pencils and Graphite**

Mechanical Pencil HB 0.5

Standard Pencils - HB / 2B / 2H

ArtGraf W/C Graphite Soft Stick 6B (9cm) (Available online at [www.theartshop.com.au](http://www.theartshop.com.au))

**Palette**

Watercolour palette with individual wells for paint and water or a large white dinner plate (Try to avoid small round plastic palettes as they tend to repel water)

**Misc**

Tissues

Water Jar

Kneadable eraser

**Watercolour Pigments**

- Winsor Lemon
- Permanent Alizarin Crimson
- Permanent Rose
- Indanthrene Blue
- Cerulean Blue
- Titanium White (*Note: Not Chinese White*)
- Sepia
- Burnt Sienna

If you have questions please contact the Friends on (03) 9650 6398 or [jill.scown@frbgmelb.org.au](mailto:jill.scown@frbgmelb.org.au)