



Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne

Term 4 2020 Online Botanic Art Outline

Instructor's Name: Dianne Emery

Class Description

My courses will vary slightly across the classes that I teach according to the experience of the students. However essentially the subject matter will be similar. The general topics will include components on spring bulbs, pollinators (bees, butterflies and / or beetles) and the technique of using coloured pencil on a mid-toned paper. We will also use the TABI exhibition to look at the elements involved in making botanical art, especially composition and technique. There will be the opportunity for students to take a topic further if they wish.

1. **Spring Bulbs.** Bulbs are a wonderful topic for Botanical Artists as they encompass everything from beautiful silken tulips, modest freesias, cheerful spring star flowers and everything in between. Painting them involves some different painting techniques to capture the beauty of petals, leaves, bulbs and roots.
2. **Pollinators.** Understanding the place of insects or pollinators is an essential part of understanding the lifecycle of plants. Many botanical artists enjoy including them in their compositions, in this section we will look at bees and butterflies, possibly beetles. We will look at their morphology, plus techniques of painting very fine bee wings or colourful butterfly wings.
3. **Coloured pencil.** Many students have enjoyed coloured pencil painting, in this component we will look at using a mid-toned coloured or toned paper to act as the middle values in a composition
4. **Looking at Art.** We have the opportunity to view a wonderful and varied exhibition of botanical art. We will look at all the aspects of making a work of art for exhibition and what is required.

Outcomes

At the end of term, you will understand the differing painting techniques required to tackle spring bulbs from petals to roots.

You will understand the basic biology of bees and butterflies and will have developed the technical skills to include them in your compositions.

You will understand the importance of building both darks and lights in your coloured pencil drawings.

You will develop some confidence in understanding what to look for when viewing art generally and develop an ability to critique botanical art.

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.

During Week 1, we will spend some time on introductions, so I gain an understanding of your skill level before beginning our class.

From week 2 onwards, we will set aside some time to review work, provide feedback, discuss progress, and answer questions. The remainder of the class will be time for learning through either viewing images, pre-recorded videos or live demonstrations and working on your artwork independently. I will ask you to complete some homework each week, it will not be compulsory, but recommended, to reinforce topics and issues discussed during the class.

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, try to set up near a window to access natural light, with the window being on the opposite side to the hand you will use to paint. If you are unable to sit near a window, ensure you have suitable lighting.

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

Drawing Materials:

- *Preferred A3 sketch Paper,
- *Graphite pencils 2H, H, HB, B, 2B,
- *Erasers, Foam or white plastic, pencil eraser and Kneadable.
- *Pencil sharpener or knife,
- *Tracing paper

Painting Materials:

*Hot press Watercolour paper, Arches 300gsm **or** Fabriano Artístico 300gsm or 640gsm

*Taklon brushes, or what you are used to. Sizes 000, 1or2, 4, 6, fine spotters if you have them.

*We will need a very fine brush for the detail involved in painting pollinators, info will be given in class.

*Masking fluid and fine nib pen

Watercolours: include some of these if possible

**Winsor Lemon

*Winsor Yellow Deep

**Quinacridone Gold

**Permanent Rose

**Winsor red

**Scarlet lake

*Indanthrene Blue

*French Ultramarine

*Cerulean Blue

*Winsor Green Blue Shade

**Perylene Green

**Winsor Violet

*Neutral Tint

With regard to the coloured pencils I will talk to you in the class and recommend a few different colours then.

If you have any queries, please contact the Friends on (03) 9650 6398 or jill.scown@frbgmelb.org.au