



**Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne**  
**Term 1, 2021 Beginners' Botanical Art Class via Zoom**  
**Wednesday 6-8pm**

**Instructor's Name: Amanda Ahmed**

**Class Description**

This course is an introduction to botanical art learning basic drawing and watercolour in Botanical Art. There will be a focus on drawing and painting from observation using different techniques to achieve realistic renderings of botanical subjects. This will incorporate developing skills such as tonal variation; different mark making applications; understanding how certain geometric shapes can be found in nature and translating them into your botanical subjects; plus basic colour theory and different watercolour applications. This workshop is suitable for beginners with little to no experience in botanical art and is presented in a friendly and supportive environment.

**Outcomes**

At the end of this course you will have more confidence drawing and painting from life and learnt some of the different techniques associated with this genre. You will have gained an understanding of the materials used and their applications working on a series of exercises and small studies.

**Class structure**

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

1. practicing eye-hand coordination with a series of drawing exercises;
2. mastering the basics of drawing using 3- line method, plus learn about other geometric tools to assist with drawing natural forms;
3. learning graphite pencil applications and techniques;
4. learning different watercolour applications and techniques;
5. exploring tone, form and light with graphite and watercolour;
6. learning basic colour theory.

Time will be set aside to review work, provide feedback, discuss progress, and answer questions.

**Starting Date of Classes**

Wednesday 3 February 2021 at 6pm

### **Term Duration and Class dates**

- 8 weeks (2 hour class each week)
- Class dates: 3/10/17/24 February, 5/10/17/24 March

### **Digital Platform for Classes**

All classes will be presented using Zoom.

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**

Please review the New Member's Kit which has been put together specifically for our courses and is available online only from Eckersley's. Use the link below to access kit on the Eckersley's website.

<https://www.eckersleys.com.au/friends-of-the-royal-botanic-gardens-beginners-art-kit>

If you already have some of these items, you should simply purchase the items you need.

#### Also required is:

1. A2 White foam board – this cannot be mailed out with the beginner's kit as it will easily be damaged in the mail.
2. Hand held flat surface magnifying glass – post office or Officeworks are good
3. Helping hands soldering stand with magnifier glass from Bunnings or LED magnifier soldering iron stand from Jaycar Electronics (both around \$20) or something similar

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