



Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne

Term 2, 2021 Beginners/Immediate Botanical Art Class

Online, Sunday 2-4pm

*Commencing 2 May 2021*

**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 across all classes.

*'Back to Basics'* is the general theme. With the opportunity to practise and revise painting and drawing techniques in preparation for a finished artwork.

As mentioned previously we will prepare for a more finished painting or drawing by going through all steps in a considered way.

Starting with choosing a subject (availability of plant or Natural History material will be an important consideration. Some class discussion will determine whether it is a general class project or individual project).

Then what aspect/s of the plant, insect, shell etc. do you wish to convey. What are your options?

Create preliminary drawings for an appropriate composition that will convey your ideas. How creative can you be when planning your composition? Is it for an exhibition or for your own personal satisfaction?

The importance of quick sketching and thumbnail drawings in the preparation of these early drawings.

Choosing an appropriate technique/s and medium/s to use. Transferring the image and choosing and testing colours or drawing tools.

Practising techniques. *Revising painting or drawing techniques* if necessary. Developing confidence in your chosen approach by ironing out any issues with technique. Some common areas often needing attention include using masking fluid, drybrush techniques, creating smooth transitions and colour modulations.

Completing the artwork. How do you know when it is finished?

## **Outcomes**

You will complete an artwork/s by the end of term. You will have developed more confidence in completing the steps necessary to progress an artwork from the concept stage through to a finished work ready for framing!

Your drawing and painting skills and sense of satisfaction will be enhanced.

## **Class structure**

This class will be presented each week in a similar format, however occasionally variances will occur.

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:** Sunday 2 May 2021, 2 – 4pm

**Term Duration:** 8 weeks. Please note there will be no class presented on Sunday 13 June due to the Queen's Birthday long weekend.

## **Digital Platform for Classes**

All online 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,
- \* Board for backing.
- \* Graphite pencils 2H, H, HB, B,
- \* 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 Artistico 300gsm or 640gsm
- \*Taklon brushes, or what you are used to. Sizes 000, 1or2, 4, 6, fine spotters if you have them.

### *Watercolours: include some of these if possible*

- \*Winsor Lemon
- \*Winsor Yellow Deep
- \*Indian Yellow
- \*Quinacridone Gold
- \*Perm. Alizarin
- \*Quinacridone Red
- \*Indanthrene Blue
- \*French Ultramarine
- \*Cerulean Blue
- \*Winsor Green Blue Shade
- \*Perylene Green
- \*Winsor Violet
- \*Neutral Tint



The contact email for your tutor is: [dianneemery@bigpond.com](mailto:dianneemery@bigpond.com)

If you have any concerns, which are not related to the specifics of art, but related to fees, absences, payments etc, please contact the Friends on (03) 9650 6398 or [botanicart@frbgmelb.org.au](mailto:botanicart@frbgmelb.org.au)