



Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne
Term 2, 2021 Beginners Level Botanic Art Class

Online, Saturday 10am – 12pm

Commencing Saturday 1 May 2021

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, dynamic lighting for our painting, continued 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 painting.

Many of the methods and techniques used in botanical art, like 'creating an engaging composition', 'refining our initial sketch', 'painting wet on wet' and 'painting dry brush', will be carefully explained and demonstrated giving each student confidence in developing their drawing and painting skills.

Outcomes

The aim of this term is to develop a greater understanding of botanical art techniques, progress further into composition and planning your painting, along with knowing when and how to apply them. Our chosen subject will be an Australian Native plant with focus on foliage and texture, light and drama. During the term we will do a rendering in graphite using various techniques, then progress to a final painting using masking fluid combined with wet on wet and 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. Looking at dynamic lighting for our composition
2. What makes an engaging composition
3. Develop skills in using masking fluid
4. Continuing 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: Saturday 1 May 2021 to 19th June 2021 (Please note there is no class on the Queen's Birthday long weekend).

Term Duration: 7 weeks (2.5 hours first 4 weeks & 2.0 hours last 3 weeks - No class Queen's B'day)

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 #0, 1, 4 & 6
A good brand is NEEF 970 Taklon

Paper

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

Pencils and Graphite

Mechanical Pencil HB 0.5
Standard Pencils – 2H/HB/2B

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

- Masking Fluid
- Nib & Holder for masking fluid application (Hunt Globe 513EF)
(Link) <https://www.eckersleys.com.au/speedball-sketching-nibs>
- Tissues
- Kneadable eraser
- Water Jar
- Paper Blending Stumps (Link) <https://www.eckersleys.com.au/paper-stumps-pack-6>

Watercolour Pigments

- Winsor Lemon
- Naples Yellow
- Permanent Alizarin Crimson
- Sap Green
- Indanthrene Blue
- Burnt Umber
- Sepia
- Burnt Sienna

If you have questions please contact the Friends on (03) 9650 6398 or botanicart@frbgmelb.org.au