



Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne

Term 2, 2021 Intermediate/Advanced Botanical Art Class

Face to Face, Monday 1pm – 4pm

Commencing 26 April 2021

Instructor's Name: Kate Nolan

Class Description

I aim to run my classes in a relaxed and friendly way, focusing for the most part on individual tutoring. We will usually have a focus to begin each class with, but students are welcome, and encouraged, to pursue their own projects in the manner they wish to, and I aim to support them in whatever they wish to or are able to do. I try to keep it reasonably informal as this ensures that students' individual needs are met.

For example, Autumn is the perfect time to celebrate yellows, oranges and reds in botanical art, so this term we can explore this palette in some depth, looking at the options, benefits and particular difficulties handling these colours, particularly with reference to autumn leaves. We can also look at some ways of introducing more contemporary touches for those who wish to. I will likely spend some time at the start of each class talking about and demonstrating on this specialist subject, then spend the remainder of class time tutoring individually, going around the class demonstrating techniques, suggesting tweaks and improvements.

There is plenty of flowering (and mushrooming) still going on out there, so all participants are welcome to pursue their own chosen subjects if desired.

Outcomes

Greater understanding of particular challenges involved in depicting subjects with predominantly orange/yellow/red colouring. Continuing practice and increasing confidence in individual botanical art projects.

Class structure

This class is in person, and while the class will be quite informal and relaxed, we will have a short lesson initially on the specialist topic, and after that all demonstration and tuition is completely personalised. All classes will most likely follow a similar format, although towards the end of term projects tend to be more advanced and more individual help is given rather than whole-class instruction.

Starting Date of Classes: Monday 26 April 2021

Term Duration

- 6 weeks (3 hours per class)
- Class dates: 26/4, 3/17/24 May and 7/21 June
- 1pm – 4pm

Materials List

The materials you will require for your class are:

Drawing Materials:

- **Grey lead pencils**, you will at least need an HB, also 2B and 2H are handy.
- Retractable pencils are nice to have if you are happy to invest in them. Even just Pacer retractable pencils from a newsagent can be great. 0.3mm lead diameter if you can get it, 0.5 is also suitable.
- a range of **coloured pencils** in the basic range of colours is nice but not essential.
- **Pencil sharpener**.
- **Drawing paper**- Any kind of sketching paper /cartridge paper or A4 printing paper.
- **tracing paper** - a few sheets.
- **eraser**: a white plastic one at least, and a handy extra is a rubber kneadable one.

Painting Materials:

- **brushes**: a selection of watercolour brushes. The least you will need is a size 1 and size 0. Other handy ones are size 00 and a size 3 or larger. Try to get sable haired brushes. Synthetic hairbrushes, e.g., Taklon hair brushes can also be good.
- **Palette**: A white ceramic ex-dinner plate is great for this. You must never use it for serving food on again so make sure it is kept for painting only.
- **tissues**. your own supply is handy, they are used for blotting up excess water.
- **Paper**: a watercolour paper with a very smooth finish. Arches hot pressed is good. Please use single sheets, not notepads. Canson Heritage hot pressed watercolour paper is great too. This is sold in notepads but it suitable.

Watercolours:

Brands to look for include Windsor and Newton, Daniel Smith, Schminke, Art Spectrum. Minimum number of paints is a warm and cool of each of the following: red, blue and green.



For example:

- an orangey-red like Cadmium red light, and a more burgundy/claret shade of red. A cerulean blue and an ultramarine/cobalt blue.
- a glue-green like viridian and an olive/red-green like Sap green. a lemon yellow.
- a bright pink like opera rose
- a light brown and a dark brown
- A dark blue-black like indigo, or just plain black.

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