



Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne

Term 4, 2021 Ongoing Beginners' Botanical Art Class

via Zoom Wednesday 6-8pm

Instructor's Name: Amanda Ahmed

Class Description

This course is a continuation for those who have attended any of the Beginners or Ongoing Beginners classes during the year, or for those who have some basic introduction to botanical art and would like to take the next step and learn more. Students can expect to build upon their foundational learning with further development in basic drawing and watercolour in botanical art, with a continued focus on working from observation to achieve realistic renderings of botanical subjects. This will incorporate building upon skills such as drawing to scale, learning foreshortening, tonal variation, plus further exploration of colour theory and different watercolour applications. These classes are presented in a friendly and supportive environment and will assist students who would like to know more about what is involved in making botanical art.

Outcomes

At the end of this course you will have gained more confidence in drawing and painting and continue to practice 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 course 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 continue to:

1. practice eye-hand coordination with a series of drawing exercises;
2. further exercises using the 3- line method to capture leaf and petal forms;
3. learn graphite pencil applications and techniques;
4. learn different watercolour applications and techniques;
5. explore tone, form and light with graphite and watercolour;
6. learn more colour theory.

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

Class dates: 6, 13, 20, 27 October; 3, 10, 17, 24 November

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Term Duration: 8 weeks

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

Due to COVID, art supplies are not in abundance with most coming from overseas. Therefore, you will need to purchase materials from a few different suppliers.

Please click on the following link for the Beginners' art kit at Ecklersley's. **Please note: you only want the Arches hot press, smooth, 300gsm watercolour A4 paper pad NOT Fabriano!**

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

If you cannot buy this watercolour paper from Eckersley's please try other suppliers such as:

<https://theartshop.com.au/arches-watercolour-pad-smooth-hpa-12-sheets-a4-300gsm>

OR

https://seniorart.com.au/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=11_307_975&products_id=5316

Also required is:

1. Watercolour palette – you can use an old white plate or for mixing larger amounts of colour a well palette such as <https://www.eckersleys.com.au/ec-stackable-6-well-plastic-palettes>.

2. Other recommended brushes are:
Art Basics blending brush – sizes 2 and 4 <https://theartshop.com.au/118b-art-basics-blenderasmoothing-brush>

Roymac Achiever Round – sizes 6, 4, 1, 000 – variety of online stores, or <https://www.cavalierart.com.au/product/roymac-achiever/>
3. **MUST HAVE** Cerulean Blue Hue 5ml watercolour – Schmincke Horadam Aquarell from either:
 - a. <https://theartshop.com.au/schmincke-horadam-aquarell-5ml-481-cerulean-blue-hue>
 - b. https://seniorart.com.au/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=24_42_109&products_id=425
 - c. https://parkersartsupplies.com/products/cerulean-blue-hue-schmincke-horadam-watercolour?_pos=2&_psq=cerulean-blue-hue-s&_ss=e&_v=1.0
4. Handheld flat surface magnifying glass **MUST HAVE** – from post office or Officeworks are good.
5. Helping hands soldering stand from Jaycar Electronics or something similar https://www.jaycar.com.au/third-hand-pcb-holder-tool-with-2-clips-and-heavy-base/p/TH1982?qclid=Cj0KCQjwsLWDBhCmARIsAPSL3_3y_fou_qO9Nt9ub08XZgChyrz7PAYGDQydQdC0pinw4tuMiG4RASgaAontEALw_wcB
OR
<https://www.jaycar.com.au/holder-pcb-with-led-magnifier-and-soldering-iron-stand/p/TH1987>

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

For any questions regarding materials, please contact the tutor, Amanda Ahmed, amanda.sidahmed@iinet.net.au



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