



Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne

Leaves and Puya Flowers Online Botanic Art Workshop

Instructor's Name: Jess Shepherd, Inky Leaves, UK

Class Description:

Explore the land of big blue flowers and huge leaves with Jessica Rosemary Shepherd (Inky Leaves) and learn how to paint botanicals with drama and scale. For this course, students will be able to choose between painting a leaf or painting a Puya flower over the 8-hour workshop. As this is a remotely taught class, Jess will provide images for every student to paint from. She will also provide students with a transferable line drawing which you can trace and place onto the watercolour paper as preparation, so you are all splashing around with our watercolour paints for the duration of the zoom class and not spending time drawing. Jess will also provide a short video before the workshop to assist with your preparation to ensure you get the most out of the 8-hour contact time with her. This video will be provided to enrolled students from the 12 January.

Jess will show you how to create dramatic shadows and a 'pop out' effect through thoughtful, careful lighting, she will examine the importance of composition and symbolism and reveal the full range of colours that can be used to paint realistic greens and blues. Jess will also talk about blue flowers and flower painting in general and will reveal the best colour mixes for blue Puya flowers and how to create that otherworldly metallic tone. She will also talk about burnishing, scratching out, shadows, whites, greys, and blacks, including those deep dark black spaces she likes to create around her blue flowers. It'll be quite a mix, but she's keen to impart with as much of her knowledge as she can during the 8 hours. It might be that you don't come away with a finished giant leaf or Puya, but you will come away with a new project started and a bag full of knowledge (and hopefully inspiration). There will also be a chance to see her current work from her studio in Spain and watch her paint live.

Class structure: This workshop will be presented over four x 2-hour online sessions.

Workshop Dates and Time: Monday 17, Tuesday 18, Monday 24, and Tuesday 25 January from 7-9pm each day.

Location: Online via Zoom

Materials List: The materials you will require for your class are:

- Some kitchen roll (or the old sleeve of a shirt) to dab brushes on
- Water jar/s
- Mixing palette – ceramic is preferable
- Two sheets of A2 hotpress 638 gsm watercolour paper – Saunders Waterford 56 x76 cm 420gsm will be ok, but heavier is preferable.
- A set of drawing pencils or a few pencils that cover tones around the HB, 2B, 6B / 9B area...
- A knife to sharpen the pencils and to do scratch work

- Watercolour paints: Jess prefers W&N perylene maroon, Cobalt blue, W&N transparent yellow and W&N Winsor Blue (Red Shade). Please see additional paint colours below depending on if you are painting a leaf or Puya flower.

Additional paint colours if you are painting leaves:

- Quinacridone Gold
- Perylene Violet
- Permanent Rose
- New Gamboge
- Payne's Gray
- Perylene Green

Additional paint colours if you are painting the Puya flower:

- Maimeri Turquoise Blue
<https://www.maimeri.it/en/products/watercolour/maimeri-blu.html>
- W&N Transparent Yellow
- W&N Permanent Rose
- W&N Cobalt Blue
- W&N Winsor Blue (Red Shade)
- Schmincke Helio Cerulean
- W&N Ultramarine Blue

If you can get professional artist's quality this helps with the transparency of the colour.

- Brushes: A range of sizes of what you already have. There is no need to buy new ones.

Jess uses:

- Da vinci synthetic 8 or 12
- Pro art oil brush – short flat size 0 – for scruffing edges and blending
- Pro art prolene plus 101. size 2
- Pro arte series 107 spotter size 2, 4, 6
- Pro arte 103 size 3 (long rigger) – if you have a sable one use that
- Pro Art Sable size 14, 12, 10 – if you choose to do a big leaf these bigger brushes are great. Not needed for a Puya.
- Tracing paper (A3 or A2 size depending on the size you choose to paint). If you want to paint A2, print my line drawing and then blow up my line drawing in the photocopier before tracing it. Or trace it to the scale you want from your computer monitor
- A putty rubber
- Magnifier if you have one handy
- Magic Eraser <https://www.mrclean.com/en-us/shop-products/magic-erasers/magic-eraser-original>
- iPad or smart phone as we need to work from images. These are also useful for magnifying leaves. Please have your charger handy
- Ruler for measuring



- If you prefer to check your colours before you put paint to paper, bring some extra sheets of light weight watercolour paper for colour testing.

If you have additional tools and materials that you would like to bring with you if you are very keen to use them, then please do so if you wish. These materials may include burnishers, scalpel and ox gall as Jess is assuming it will be hot at the time of the workshops and Ox Gall will help for those participants painting leaves.

If you would like to bring some of your previous works for Jess to look at, bring them too. Jess finds it is very helpful to discuss art works in groups as it is a very good learning tool.

Lastly, if you can find any black charcoal powder and a black charcoal pencil, you can have a go at making your own black spaces.

If you have any queries about this workshop, please do not hesitate to email the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne on friends@frbgmelb.org.au however please note the Friends' staff will be on annual leave from 5pm, 22 December 2021 – 9am 12 January 2022. We will reply to all emails on our return.