



Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne

Term 1 2022 Online Botanic Art Outline

Sat 10am – 12pm

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, maintaining colour and detail of a highly coloured subject, continued colour theory 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 'painting wet on wet', 'dry brush painting', and using very fine brushes to capture subtle colour variations will be carefully explained and demonstrated giving each student confidence in developing their drawing and painting skills.

Outcomes

Our chosen subject will be a Sturt's Desert Pea, (*Swainsona formosa*). We will focus on a bold composition for this subject, paying close attention to the lush red colours and contrasts in the flower and the soft greens of the foliage.

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. Painting an iconic Australian Native flower
2. Creating a high level of detail
3. Develop skills in fine brush work
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.

Date of Classes: Saturday 5th February 2022 - Saturday 2nd April 2022

NOTE: (No class on Sat 12th March due to the Labour Day Long Weekend)

Term Duration: 8 weeks (2.0 hours each week)

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 #000, 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
Pencils – 4H/2H
Sharpener

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

- Tissues
- Kneadable eraser
- Water Jar

Watercolour Pigments

- Winsor Lemon
- Winsor Blue (Green Shade)
- Neutral Tint
- Quinacridone Red
- Permanent Alizarin Crimson
- Indanthrene Blue
- Sap Green
- Titanium White (Not Chinese White)

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



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