



## **Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne**

### **Beginners' Drawing with Graphite**

**Sundays 29 January; 12 February; 12 March; 26 March 2023**

**10am – 3.30pm at Domain House**

**Instructor's Name: Amanda Ahmed**

**Subject: Beginners' Drawing with Graphite**

#### **Class Description:**

This course will focus on observational drawing using graphite pencils to achieve realistic renderings of botanical subjects. Also incorporated will be learning how to draw from life not photos; learning about tone, light value and form; learning different mark making techniques; and understanding how basic geometric shapes can be found in nature and translating them into your drawings. This class is presented in a friendly and supportive environment and is suitable for beginners with little drawing experience or for students wanting to develop and/or revisit their drawing skills. Note: completion of Beginners' Workshop (as an introduction to botanical art) is recommended before commencing this course but not necessary.

#### **Outcomes:**

At the end of the term, you will have built up a series of sketches and studies in your drawing book and completed at least one fully rendered drawing in graphite. Possible subjects to be explored will be tomatoes, gumnuts, flower buds and leaves continued from 2022! You will have developed further confidence in drawing from life and a better understanding of graphite pencil techniques.

#### **Class structure:**

This class will be held 4 x Sundays during term from 10am – 3.30pm with 30 minutes for lunch. The following will be covered:

1. Practice eye-hand coordination with a series of drawing exercises.
2. Review basics of drawing using 3- line technique and learn about other geometric tools to assist with drawing natural forms.
3. Learn graphite application using fine layering techniques.
4. Explore tonal variances to create realistic 3D effects.
5. Review.

Time will be set aside to review work, provide feedback, discuss progress, and answer questions. The remainder of the class will be time for learning and working on your artwork independently.

**Starting date of term: Sunday 29 January 2023**

**Finishing date of term: Sunday 26 March 2023**

Term 1 2023 – Sundays Amanda Ahmed

## Materials list

- Paper** A3 cartridge paper drawing pad – must be smooth surface  
**PLUS**  
1 x sheet of Arches 300gms hot pressed watercolour paper. **(Please do not get the sheet rolled up. Cut paper in half and place into plastic sleeve (see 'Other' below) to keep protected and store flat. You can add some cardboard to the sleeve to keep it rigid.)**  
Do not get a pad of Arches paper – the surface is not the same and does not hold the graphite as well.  
**PLUS**  
Tracing paper 2 x A3 or 1 x A2 sheet(s) – do not buy pad is costly
- Pencils** 6H, 4H, 2H, H, HB, 2B, 4B, 6B (Staedtler Mars – Lumograph – this is the preferred brand but if you have another brand use that).
- Rubbers** Kneadable rubber.  
Good quality white rubber – e.g., Faber Castell Dust Free, Sakura Foam Rubber (purchase online)  
Tombow – mono Zero Eraser – fine tipped pen style eraser.
- Other** **Must have:** Hand-held **flat** surface magnifying glass  
A2 plastic sleeve for storing paper.  
Clear plastic ruler 15-20cm long  
One A2 sheet of foam core board – if unable to locate, white cardboard will be fine. To be used as a backdrop to your subject.  
Black emery paper – 1 x P600 and/or 1 x P800 – don't worry if you can't get both (avail Bunnings).  
Stanley knife or something similar – larger size not small.  
Helping Hands soldering stand with magnifier (Example A at Bunnings or Dick Smith) **OR**  
Holder PCB with LED Magnifier Soldering Iron Stand (Example B at Jaycar Electronics Geelong) both around \$20



Example A

OR



Example B



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Recommended art suppliers: [theartshop.com.au](http://theartshop.com.au), Seniors, Eckersleys but any other art suppliers will be fine. Also recommend Officeworks. Any questions regarding materials you can contact Amanda at: [amanda.sidahmed@inet.net.au](mailto:amanda.sidahmed@inet.net.au).

