



Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne

Beginners' Botanical Art Workshop

Mondays 9, 16 and Tuesdays 10, 17 January 2023

Online 9.30am – 3.30pm

Instructor: Kate Nolan

Class Description:

This workshop is an introduction to botanical art learning basic drawing and watercolour in Botanical Art. There will be a focus on drawing and painting from observation using different techniques to achieve realistic renderings of botanical subjects. This will incorporate developing skills such as tonal variation; different mark making applications; understanding how certain geometric shapes can be found in nature and translating them into your botanical subjects; plus basic colour theory and different watercolour applications.

This workshop is suitable for beginners with little to no experience in botanical art and is presented in a friendly and supportive environment.

Outcomes:

At the end of this workshop you will have more confidence drawing and painting from life and have learnt some of the 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 as 4 x 5 hour classes over 2 weeks. Each class will be in a similar format, however occasionally variances will occur.

Topics we will cover

- practicing eye-hand coordination with a series of drawing exercises;
- mastering the basics of drawing using 3- line method, plus learn about other geometric tools to assist with drawing natural forms;
- learning graphite pencil applications and techniques;
- learning different watercolour applications and techniques;
- exploring tone, form and light with graphite and watercolour;
- learning basic colour theory.

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



Starting date of term: Monday 9 January 2023

Finishing date of term: Tuesday 17 January 2023

Duration: 4 days duration (10 hours/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 for online classes

From experience we recommend either a laptop computer. An iPad is good but has a reduced screen size so some camera views are sometimes restricted. A desktop computer is also suitable provided you are also able to paint/draw in this space.

Engagement via a mobile phone is theoretically possible but 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. A south facing window (in the southern hemisphere) is best as it always provides indirect light. If you are unable to sit near a window, ensure you have suitable lighting.

Materials List

You will need to purchase all the items listed below plus the items in the Beginners' Art Kit which is available from Eckersleys'. The kit includes your paints and brushes. You can access the kit by clicking on the link below which will take you to Eckersley's Art Supplies website. Participants in Friends' Art Classes receive a significant discount for these materials by ordering the Beginners' Kit online at Eckersley's. Please note, the kit is not available for purchase instore. It sold online only.

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

Also required:

Drawing Materials:

General Blank Paper suitable for sketching, eg cartridge paper you would use in your home printer. A3 is the best size, A4 is also ok.

Tracing paper At least a few A4 sheets.

Graphite pencils 2H, HB, B, 2B, are the minimum. Other useful pencils 3B 4B.



Coloured pencils just the basic range of colours at least. Faber Castel polychromos are good or Lyra Rembrandts. They do not have to be water soluble, but it is ok and can be useful if they are.

Erasers, rubber, kneadable and white plastic can all be useful. Eraser foam if you have it.

Pencil sharpener Extras which can be useful are a box-cutter knife and fine sandpaper.

Tissues

Painting Materials:

Paper: *Hot pressed Watercolour paper. We recommend Canson's Moulin Du Roy hotpressed (smooth) watercolour paper Weight (thickness) 300gsm. It is sold in pads.

If you cannot get this, the large single sheets of Arches 300gsm hotpressed super smooth which you can then divide yourself into smaller pieces are best, not the Arches pads. Other papers which are good include Fabriano Artistico (smooth/hot pressed 300gsm).

Palette: A large white ceramic ex- dinner plate is great. Best to use what you are used to though. We do not recommend, in most circumstances, plastic palettes. **You must never use the dinner plate for food serving after it has had paint on it.**

Your tutor can be contacted via email on sciartist.kn@gmail.com.

If you have any queries, please contact the Friends on (03) 9650 6398 or botanicart@frbgmelb.org.au