



Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne
Intermediate Level

1, 8, 15 and 22 February and 1, 8, 15 and 22 March 2023
Wednesdays 1-3 pm

Instructors Name: Kate Nolan

Subject: Exploration of shape and colour in sectioned flowers

Class Description: The dissected flowers painted by Arthur Harry Church have a wonderful peaceful formality to them, and their somewhat abstracted feel highlights line, shape and colour. In this course we will take our inspiration from Church and will use cross sections of vegetables, flowers and fruit to explore shape and colour.

We will be drawing and painting from observation to achieve realistic renderings of botanical subjects. We will primarily use watercolour paints on paper and there will be the option to use some coloured pencil.

This workshop is suitable for those who have had some 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 botanical subjects using watercolour and associated media, and will have learnt and practised some of the different techniques associated with this genre. You will have gained an understanding of the equipment and materials used and their applications by working on a series of studies and practising the techniques demonstrated in class.

Class structure: This course will be presented as 8 x 2-hour classes over the 8 week term. Each class will be in a similar format, however occasionally variations will occur. The first 15 minutes of class is usually used to review any work done or discuss issues generally then we move onto discussion of the subject; setup, any particular difficulties etc. Most of the class is then spent in demonstration, discussion and explanation. It is anticipated that we will spend 1-3 weeks on each individual subject. Opportunities are provided during class to review work, provide feedback, discuss progress and answer questions.

Starting date of term: 8 weeks duration (2 hours/week, 1-3pm)

- First class on Wednesday 1st Feb 2023

Finishing date of term: last class on Wednesday 22nd March



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 it for updates by opening zoom a day prior to class and running the updates

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

Drawing Materials:

Paper suitable for sketching, eg cartridge. A3 is the best size, A4 is often ok though.

Tracing paper, At least a few A4 sheets.

Graphite pencils 2H, HB, B, 2B, are the minimum. Other useful: a 4B and 6B if you have it.

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. A few different colours other than the standard minimum set will be discussed in class.

Erasers, One of each of rubber, kneadable and white plastic can all be useful. A tombow MONOZERO retractable Elastomer Eraser is great.

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

No4 pencil/pastel Blender/smudger. This is a pencil-like object made of tightly rolled paper sharpened at both ends. The pointed ends are used to blend and smooth out greylead pencil or pastel.

Tissues.

Painting Materials:

Paper: *Hot pressed Watercolour paper. Possible recommended options include: Canson's Moulin Du Roy hotpressed (smooth) watercolour paper Weight (thickness) 300gsm. Usually sold in pads but might be available in single sheets. A single A1 sheet of Clairefontaine hotpressed (smooth) 300gsm watercolour paper is also a nice paper, as is an A1 sized single sheet of Arches 300gsm hotpressed super smooth. Not the Arches pads. Other papers which are good include Fabriano Artistico (smooth/hot pressed 300gsm) also in single sheets. All of these large single sheets you can then divide yourself into smaller pieces.

Brushes: Sizes 00, 0, 1 or 2. **As a minimum, get a 0 and a 2.**

I generally recommend sable haired watercolour brushes; brands such as Winsor and Newton, Raphael and Da Vinci are all great. Neef are a good budget option for sable. Most brands also make (synthetic-hair) Taklon brushes and these are a great option too.

Palette: A large white ceramic ex-dinner plate is great. I 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.**

Jug or large jar for water. This must never be used for drinks serving after use for painting either.

Watercolor paints:

Tubes are preferable. The smaller tube size is plenty. Brands recommended are Winsor and Newton, Schminke, Daniel Smith, Art spectrum, Sennelier.

The absolute minimum (Beginner's) list of paint colours is the following six:

1. **Lemon yellow,**
2. **Winsor Red, or equivalent such as Schminke's Ruby Red**
3. **Cadmium Red Light or equivalent like Scarlet Lake,**
4. **Cobalt blue or equivalent such as Winsor blue (Green shade),**
5. **Cerulean blue or equivalent,**
6. **Viridian Green (or Winsor Green).**

*A comprehensive set of **additional** paint colours is listed below.*

The ones in bold are the next most important to get if you have not already got them, namely a pink, usually named **magenta** (eg quinacridone magenta) or rose (eg permanent rose), and



a dark blue-black colour. (eg. **neutral tint** by Winsor and Newton, or Art Spectrum's equivalent 'indigo')

Turquoise would be next. A few other handy colours to have in each range are listed

The list below is grouped roughly into colour groupings and is based on Winsor and Newton's range. You can buy the equivalent colour from other brands such as Daniel Smith, Schminke, Art Spectrum etc.

Quinacridone Magenta or Permanent Rose/Opera Rose,.

Neutral Tint. A black such as Lamp black and a blue-black such as Paynes gray or Art Spectrum's Indigo.

Indanthrene Blue, French Ultramarine, Prussian Blue, Schminke's **Cobalt Turquoise.** Or **Phthalo Turquoise.**

Permanent Sap green, Perylene Green, Terre Verte

Winsor Violet, Indian Red, Perylene Violet.

Handy additional yellows: Transparent Yellow, Naples Yellow, Transparent Orange and Quinacridone Gold

Handy extra reds: Permanent Alizarin Crimson, Rose Dore/Potters Rose.

Burnt Sienna, Raw Sienna. Vandyke Brown,

Sepia. Burnt Umber

If you have any concerns which are not related to the specifics of art, but related to fees, absences, payments etc, please contact the Friends on (03) 9650 6398 or botanicart@frbgmelb.org.au

Your tutor can be contacted via email on sciartist.kn@gmail.com or via the messaging feature at Instagram site: katenolanart