



Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne
All Levels Welcome

11, 12 and 13 January 2023 from 9.30am to 3.30pm

Instructors Name: Kate Nolan

Subject: Natural History Art- Shells and Beach treasures

Class Description: This series of classes will explore watercolour technique which can be employed to depict natural history subjects.

We will be drawing and painting from observation to achieve realistic renderings of natural history subjects such as shells, crab claws, dried seaweed. We will use traditional media such as greylead pencil and watercolour painting on paper. We will practice our drawing, painting and incorporating specific art values such as contrast, tone, texture, shape, line.

This workshop is most suitable for those who have had some experience in botanical art though all levels are welcome. It is presented in a friendly and supportive environment.

Outcomes: At the end of this workshop you will have more confidence drawing and painting natural history subjects using techniques which are usually used for botanical art such as greylead drawing and watercolour painting on paper, and will have practised some of the different techniques associated with natural history art. You will have gained an understanding of the materials used and their applications by working on a series of exercises and small studies.

Class structure: This course will be presented as 2 hour classes over three days. 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 step by step demonstration while students can choose to watch or work along with the tutor. There is discussion and explanation along the way, and students are free to ask questions at any time to tailor this to their own needs. There is usually a different subject started every day though we will be flexible according to student pace and needs. During the last 15 minutes of every lesson we review work, provide feedback, discuss progress.

Starting date of intensive: Wednesday 11th January.



- Times: 9.30am to 3.30pm

Finishing date of term: last class on Friday 13th January

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

Standard watercolour materials :

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: The Masters Choice by a company called Baohong hot pressed. Can be bought in separate sheets; just a few would do. 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. If you can find it, Canson's Moulin Du Roy hotpressed (smooth) watercolour paper Weight (thickness) 300gsm. Usually sold in pads but might be available in single sheets.

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:

Watercolour paints:

Tubes are preferable. The smaller tube size is enough.

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

Lemon yellow,

two reds: (Winsor or Ruby) Red and Cadmium Red Light or Scarlet Lake,

two blues: Cobalt blue or Ultramarine Green shade and Cerulean blue,

A green: 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, in particular a magenta or rose, and neutral tint. Turquoise would be next.

A few other handy colours to have in each range are listed. This list is based on Winsor and Newton's range. You can buy the equivalent colour from other brands such as Schminke, Daniel Smith or Art Spectrum. The following are grouped roughly into their colour groupings:

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.

Handy extra blues: Indanthrene Blue, French Ultramarine, Prussian Blue, Schminke's **Cobalt Turquoise.** Or **Phthalo Turquoise.**

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

Great extra greens: Permanent Sap green, Perylene Green, Terre Verte

Winsor Violet, **Indian Red, Perylene Violet.**

Handy additional yellows: **Naples Yellow** and Quinacridone Gold

Burnt Sienna. Raw sienna. Vandyke Brown,

Sepia. Burnt Umber



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

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@friends.org.au