



Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne

Term 2 2023 Online Botanic Art Outline

Mon 6pm – 8pm

Instructor's Name: David Reynolds

Class Description

Students learn in a relaxed and encouraging atmosphere with plenty of open discussion about watercolour techniques, colour theory, materials and how to use them. Practical demonstrations of each technique will be shown each week as we work through our subject. Student learn and practice techniques used to create accurate drawings and progress to a finished watercolour painting.

Many of the techniques used in botanical art, like 'wet on wet' and 'dry brushing', will be carefully explained and demonstrated giving each student confidence in developing their painting and drawing skills.

Outcomes

The aim of this term is to developing a greater understanding of botanical art watercolour techniques and knowing how and when to use them. Our chosen subject will be *Gloriosa superba*, a stunning 'Flame Lily'.

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. Explore techniques in building high levels of detail
2. Develop skills in layering transparent pigments
3. Gain a greater sense of colour mixing using three primary colours
4. 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.

Starting Date of Classes: Week beginning Monday 24th April 2023 - Monday 12th June 2023

Term Duration: 8 weeks (2-hour class 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 #5/0, 1, 4 (Neef 970 Robert Wade)

Paper

Arches 300gsm smooth hot press watercolour paper (A3 Size or 1/4 sheet)

Tracing paper

Pencils and Graphite

Standard Pencil - 2H

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

Water Jar

Kneadable eraser

Watercolour Pigments

- Winsor Lemon (W&N)

- Winsor Blue (Green Shade) (W&N)

- Permanent Carmine (W&N)

If you have questions please contact the Friends on (03) 9650 6398



Gloriosa superba are perennial bulbs that climb or scramble over other plants with the aid of tendrils at the ends of their leaves and can reach 3 meters in height. Common names include flame lily.