



Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne

Beginners' Drawing with Graphite

Sundays 23 April; 7 May; 21 May; 4 June 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 autumnal subjects to be explored will be dried leaves, rose hips, pods or nuts. 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 geometric shapes 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 23 April 2023

Finishing date of term: Sunday 4 June 2023

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
Stanley knife or something similar.
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.
Derwent Superpoint Manual Helical pencil sharpener (I have one which students can use in class) : <https://www.eckersleys.com.au/derwent-superpoint-manual-helical-sharpeners>
<https://www.officeworks.com.au/shop/officeworks/p/derwent-helical-1-hole-sharpener-ac2302001>
Helping Hands soldering stand:





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OR Holder PCB with LED Magnifier Soldering Iron Stand

https://www.jaycar.com.au/third-hand-pcb-holder-tool-with-2-clips-and-heavy-base/p/TH1982?gclid=Cj0KCQiApKagBhC1ARIsAFc7Mc45kqR7wP0dyRRzLxyh-vxZfAaP1bM0T5liN2ue_VaZy_WGJBMKgQMaAgoPEALw_wcB



Recommended art suppliers: 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@iinet.net.au.

