



**Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne
Intermediate Level**

**4 day intensive
11, 12, 18 and 19 April 2023
9.30am-3pm Australian Eastern Standard Time
Online class.**

Instructors Name: Kate Nolan
Subject: Medicinal Plants: Treatments or Toxic?

Class Description: From Penicillin to Poppies, the world of potent plants has been documented for centuries and continues to be explored in search of medical treatments. In this online course we will create botanical artworks which portray some of these special subjects.

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 employed when painting in 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 4 x 5 hours classes over two weeks, 9:30am to 3pm.

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. Opportunities are provided during class to review work, provide feedback, discuss progress and answer questions.

Starting date of class: Four days total, 9:30am to 3pm AEST each day.
Tuesday 11 April 2023

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 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 possible but not practical or recommended 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, e.g. 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.

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 if they are, it is ok and can be useful. A few different colours other than the standard minimum set may 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.

Extra sharpeners 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. The smoothest and my favourite is an A1 sized single sheet of Arches 300gsm weight, hotpressed. Not the Arches pads.

Other possible recommended options include: Fabriano Artistico hot pressed (smooth) 300gsm weight, also in single sheets. A popular choice.

The Masters Choice hotpressed (smooth) paper by Baohong, 300gsm.

If you can find it Canson's Moulin Du Roy hotpressed (smooth) watercolour paper Weight 300gsm. Usually sold in pads.

A single A1 sheet of Clairefontaine hotpressed (smooth) 300gsm watercolour paper is also a nice paper.

Any large single sheet of watercolour paper can be divided by you into smaller pieces.

Brushes: Sizes 00, 0, 1 or 2. **As a minimum, get a size 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. 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 serving drinks again, after having had painting water in it.

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 obtain: namely a pink, usually named Magenta (eg quinacridone magenta) or rose (e.g. 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 colour range are listed below.

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.

Pinks: Quinacridone Magenta or Permanent Rose/Opera Rose.

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

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

Greens: Permanent Sap green, Perylene Green, Terre Verte

Violets: Winsor Violet, Perylene Violet.

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

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

Browns: Burnt Sienna, Raw Sienna. Vandyke Brown, Sepia. Burnt Umber.

Odd bods: Indian Red. Anything else which takes your fancy.

A note regarding quality: Buying cheap paints, paper or brushes is false economy because for these items in particular, botanical painting is much easier and the results noticeably better with the recommended items. Cheaper paints and paper in particular will greatly increase the difficulty of creating really great work. You can economise on paint tube size: the smallest tubes are plenty big enough. And by buying one or two individual paper sheets rather than paper pads.

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.

Your tutor can be contacted via email on sciartist.kn@gmail.com or via the messaging feature at Instagram site: [katenolanart](https://www.instagram.com/katenolanart)