



Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne
Term 4 2025 - Botanic Art Classes Outline
Saturday 10.00am - 12.00pm
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

Our chosen subject will be *Nepenthes sp.* (Pitcher Plant). The striking appearance of *Nepenthes* are a genus of carnivorous plants and are native to Southeast Asia. The vibrant pattern on the Pitcher Plant makes a wonderful subject to paint in watercolour using traditional watercolour techniques.

Class structure

This class will be presented each week online via Zoom and in this class we will cover:

1. Colour mixing using transparent staining washes
2. Understand techniques in building high levels of detail
3. Using wet on wet and dry brush techniques
4. Using masking fluid
5. 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.

Dates for Classes: Saturday 18th October to 13th December 2025

Term Duration: 8 weeks (2 hours class each week online via Zoom)

(Note: No class Saturday 1st November - Cup Day 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

Masking fluid

Speedball Hunt Globe EF513 Nib and Holder

Watercolour Pigments

- Winsor Lemon
- Winsor Yellow Deep
- Permanent Rose
- Scarlet Lake
- Winsor Blue (Green Shade)
- Indanthrene Blue
- Burnt Umber
- Burnt Sienna
- Titanium White Opaque

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



Nepenthes, commonly known as tropical pitcher plants or monkey cups, are a genus of carnivorous plants known for their unique, pitcher-shaped leaves that trap and digest insects.

These plants are native to Southeast Asia and are known for their striking appearance and fascinating feeding habits.