



Term 4 2025

Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne

Intermediate/Advanced Face to Face class

Domain House

Wednesday 10:30am – 1:00pm

Instructor's Name: Dianne Emery

Class Description:

We will continue to develop the painting, drawing and observational skills necessary to create accurate and realistic Botanical and Natural History Art, for example:

- How to utilize and creatively portray light to re-create and illustrate the many forms, tones, textures, and surfaces we see in our subjects.
- Mixing and using colours, understanding and using colour biases, layering and underpainting to convey the illusion of light, shadow, depth, transparency, and distance.
- Practice brush and pencil techniques, including coloured pencil.
- Sketching and drawing from life using a constructive approach.
- Developing observational skills and drawing with confidence.
- Developing confidence and creativity with planning and composition.
- Subject matter will be seasonal flowering plants, seeds, bulbs, fruit, and Natural History subjects available at the time

Some experimentation with different mediums is always encouraged. We will use Natural History as well as Botanical subjects.

- We will encourage the more experienced students to develop confidence in carrying out their own artistic ideas and projects.
- Personal one on one discussion, tuition and advice will always be available to all students.
- Homework will be recommended

Outcomes: Students will develop confidence and accuracy in drawing and painting from life. Their skills of accurate observation and rendering different surfaces will be enhanced. Using tools such as constructive drawing and understanding light effects they will be able to improve the illusions of forms in space, as well as creating interesting compositions relevant to their subjects.

Researching and understanding the subject matter, the botany and morphological structure of the subject matter will enhance their understanding and appreciation of the natural world.



Class structure: A class project that concentrates on essential and relevant painting and drawing skills, will be available each week. Homework and own practice will always be recommended. Students working on their individual projects will be encouraged and supported, together with one-on-one discussions and tuition. All students will be encouraged to participate in general class discussions and critiques.

Starting Date: 8th October

Finishing date: 26th November

Materials : Various art materials will be recommended during the term according to the subject or project.



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