



Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne

Beginners/Intermediate

Term 4 2025

Thursdays 10am – 4pm fortnightly

Domain House

Instructor's Name: Craig Lidgerwood

Subject: A spring bulb

Class Description:

This beginners/intermediate class will introduce participants to the necessary observation, composition, drawing and painting skills to develop a botanic artwork using a variety of materials and techniques. Participants will be introduced to shading, toning and colour techniques to create a 3-dimensional artwork that is both illustratively realistic and artistic.

Outcomes:

Participants will have the skills to identify and develop a botanic artwork with fine attention to detail, and the confidence to develop their own individual style.

Class structure:

During this class we will develop techniques, discuss approaches and begin to understand the materials utilised to create a finished botanic artwork.

The following will be covered:

1. Choosing a subject and developing a composition;
2. How to approach a subject and plan a painting;
3. Observing natural shapes and forms;
4. Shading and light values;
5. Transferring techniques;
6. The principals of washes and dry brush work;
7. Developing a watercolour artwork.

Time will be set aside to review work, provide feedback, discuss progress, and answer questions.

Starting Date of term: 9 October

Finishing date of term: 27 November

Note: Classes 10am – 4pm, fortnightly. 9 and 23 October; 6 and 27 November.

Materials list

General materials list – intermediate

Materials

Brushes Large brush – size 4 or 3 or 2

Small brush – size 000

Blending brush – NEEF Sable Flat size 2 or similar

- Check when buying that the brushes have a good point
- Bring along any other brushes you think maybe useful

Paper Sketching pad or paper (A4 or A3 size is fine)

Tracing paper

Arches 300gsm smooth hot press watercolour paper - A4 Pad (small composition) or loose sheets which can be cut up)

Pencils H or HB to draw with

A mixture of pencils for tonal studies eg: 6H to 6B

- Bring along any pencils you have in different tones

Palette A white china plate (bread & butter size is fine) or similar

Watercolour paints Quinacridone Red or Permanent Rose

Cerulean Blue

Vanadium Yellow or Windsor Yellow

Cadmium Red or Scarlet Lake

Permanent Sap Green

Perylene Green

Quinacridone Gold

Chinese White

Ultramarine Blue

- Bring whatever watercolour paints you have as we may wish to explore alternatives

Masking Fluid Windsor & Newton

Calligrapher's nib & holder – a general 'Hunt' nib works well

Other A clean white handkerchief

Tissues

Water jar

Kneadable rubber

General eraser (eg. Staedtler or similar)

Pencil sharpener

Ruler

Box cutter (or similar) for cutting up paper

Paper Towel or tracing film to use to protect your work

A small clean vessel (such a wine bottle top) to pour masking fluid in.



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