



Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne

Botanical Drawing with Graphite

Tuesdays 2pm-4.30pm at Domain House

Term 4 2025

Instructor's Name: Amanda Ahmed

Class Description:

This course is a beginner to intermediate drawing class and 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, ongoing beginners or people wanting to further develop and/or revisit their drawing skills.

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. Subjects will be seasonally dependent, such as fruit, vegetables or plants with interesting forms. You will have developed more confidence in drawing from life and a better understanding of graphite pencil techniques.

Class structure:

This class will be held in Term 4 on Tuesdays 2pm-4.30pm. The following will be covered:

1. Practice eye-hand coordination with a series of drawing exercises.
2. Based on subject(s) for the term, review basics of drawing using 3- line technique and learn about other geometric tools to assist with drawing natural forms.
3. Learn graphite application using layering techniques.
4. Explore tonal variances to create realistic 3D effects.
5. Ongoing students will continue to build upon graphite techniques and draw from observation.

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: Tuesday 7 October 2025

Finishing date of term: Tuesday 2 December 2025

Note: no class on Tuesday 4 November 2025 (Melbourne Cup)

Materials list

Please read this carefully. Make sure all purchases are checked off list before paying for them. Do not accept cheaper alternatives other than what is listed below.

- Paper**
- A3 cartridge paper drawing pad – must be smooth surface **OR** 4 sheets of A2 cartridge paper which can be cut to A3 size in class.
 - A4 pad of tracing paper – nothing expensive. **If you are able to purchase individual sheets of tracing paper that would be more cost effective.**
 - 1 x sheet Arches 300gms smooth hot pressed watercolour paper which will need to be cut into 4 x sheets. **(Note: if possible, please keep flat and not rolled, once cut, store in a plastic sleeve to protect it. Please do not substitute with Arches watercolour pad.)**
- Pencils**
- **New and ongoing students:** 4H, 2H, H, HB, B, 2B, 4B (Staedtler Mars – Lumograph – this is the preferred brand but if you already have graphite pencils bring those in).
 - **Ongoing students:** Staedtler Mars Lumograph Black Pencils HB, 2B, 4B, 6B, 8B
- Rubbers**
- Blue 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.**
- Sharpener**
- New students can use the tutor's sharpeners supplied in class.

Continuing students, it is worth investing in a Derwent Helical Manual Sharpener which is around \$50. **Note: try and purchase the one with the metal casing not the plastic casing.**



- Other**
- Clear plastic ruler 15-20cm (measuring subject)
 - Paper stumps for blending.
 - Medium sized handheld magnifying glass – **must have!** Available at art suppliers, Officeworks, newsagents, Australia Post shops or online – don't spend more than \$15. **Note: small magnifying glasses are not practical. See example below:**



MELBOURNE FRIENDS

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS VICTORIA



Product Code: SMHMAGNIFY

Category Links: Drawing Accessories

Brand: Studymate



Recommended art suppliers: theartshop.com.au, Seniors, Melbourne Art Supplies. Also recommend Officeworks. Any questions regarding materials you can contact Amanda at: amanda.sidahmed@iinet.net.au.

The following will be provided by the tutor at classes:

1. Drawing subjects
2. Black emery paper
3. Stanley knife (if you already own one please bring in)
4. Soldering iron stand (sounds weird but for holding subjects)
5. Foamcore boards (for backdrop behind subjects)

