



## **Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne**

### **Botanical Drawing with Coloured Pencil**

**Tuesdays 6pm-8.30pm Domain House**

**Term 4**

**Instructor's Name: Amanda Ahmed**

This introductory coloured pencil course is designed for beginners to ongoing beginner students. Some basic drawing skills or experience drawing in graphite would be beneficial. The course covers the fundamentals of botanical drawing using coloured pencils, focusing on form, tone, layering techniques, and recognizing basic geometric shapes in nature to incorporate into your drawings. The focus will be on observational drawing to create realistic renderings of botanical subjects. This class is conducted in a friendly and supportive environment. While most of the class time will be dedicated to coloured pencil techniques, there will be some time allocated for warm-up exercises in graphite.

#### **Outcomes:**

By the end of the term, you will have completed a series of coloured pencil exercises and created at least one fully rendered drawing. Subjects will vary with the seasons and may include fruit, vegetables, or plants with interesting forms and colours. Along the way, you'll build confidence in your drawing skills and develop a solid grounding in coloured pencil techniques. We'll also include a few sketchbook warm-ups in graphite to support your learning.

#### **Class structure:**

This class will be held in Term 4 on Tuesdays at Domain House from 6pm-8.30pm. The following will be covered:

1. Practice eye-hand coordination with drawing exercises (graphite).
2. Introduction to using geometric shapes to assist with drawing natural forms (graphite and coloured pencil).
3. Introduction to basic coloured pencil application using layering techniques.
4. Review of basic colour theory.
5. Explore tonal variances in coloured pencil to create realistic 3D effects.

Time will be set aside for demonstrations, feedback, progress updates, and 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  
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 pad of Strathmore Bristol Vellum 300 series (buy online) Link below is for <https://www.amazon.com.au/Strathmore-Bristol-Vellum-Paper-Sheets/dp/B0027A7K22?th=1> ) **Note: must be vellum 300 series, not 400 or 500. New students for the term will be able to purchase from the art tutor in class at \$2.50 a sheet. Ongoing students are to purchase their own supply of SBV.**

**Pencils** 4H, 2H, H, HB, B, 2B (Staedtler Mars – Lumograph – this is the preferred brand but if you already have graphite pencils use those).

Recommended coloured pencils are **Faber-Castell Polychromos\*** as they are a hard pencil and excellent for botanical drawing. These can all be bought individually.\*\*

Chrome Oxide Green 278  
Chromium Green Opaque 174  
Earth Green Yellowish 168  
May Green 170  
Permanent Green Olive 167

Alizarin Crimson 226  
Scarlet Red 219  
Pale Geranium Lake 121  
Naples Yellow 185  
Magenta 133  
Scarlet Red 118

**\*Note: it is easy to mistake FC watercolour pencils for the FC Polychromos – please be mindful when choosing.**

**\*\*there might be more pencils added to this list during the term**

**Blender** - Lyra Splendor Blender colourless blender pencil

**Rubbers** - Kneadable rubber

- Kent battery eraser with interchangeable nibs – should be around \$11. **Important: this has small rubber. Do not buy other brands (e.g. Derwent) with large rubbers**
- 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.**

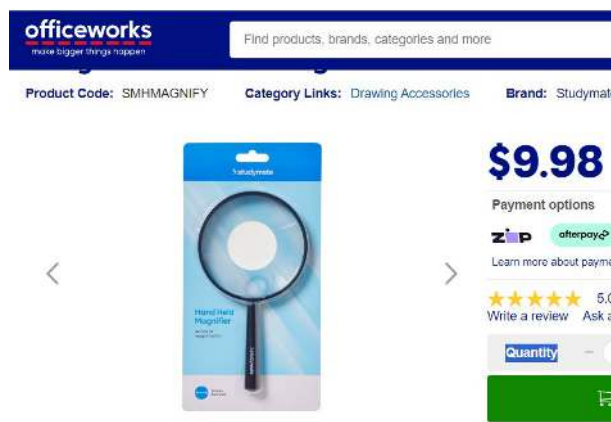


**Solvent** - Copic Colourless Marker Pen with the super brush tip – available at art suppliers and Officeworks



**Other:** - Clear plastic ruler 15-20cm (measuring subject)

- 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:**



Recommended art suppliers: theartshop.com.au (online purchasing, home delivered with competitive prices), Senior Art Supplies, Melbourne Art Supplies or any other reputable art suppliers. Note: Eckersleys FC individual coloured pencils are expensive! Also recommend Officeworks. Any questions regarding materials you can contact Amanda at: [amanda.sidahmed@iinet.net.au](mailto:amanda.sidahmed@iinet.net.au).

