



Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne
Introduction to Botanical Drawing in Coloured Pencil
21-22 January 2026
10am-4pm (30 mins lunch)

Instructor's Name: Amanda Ahmed

Class Description:

This two-day workshop offers an introduction to coloured pencil as a medium, with a focus on techniques unique to coloured pencil and how to apply them effectively to botanical subjects. The workshop is designed for participants with little or no prior experience in coloured pencil and is presented in a supportive and engaging environment.

Outcomes:

By the end of the workshop, you will have developed a good understanding of coloured pencil techniques through a series of guided exercises and small botanical studies. The subjects at this level will include geometric shapes, a small chilli, small tomato, **OR** small capsicum, along with a simple leaf. If you'd like to keep exploring after the workshop, you're warmly invited to join the **ongoing coloured pencil classes held on Tuesday evenings during term**, where you can continue building skills in a friendly, supportive group.

Class structure:

This two-day workshop will be presented at Domain House and will run from 10-4pm each day with 30mins for lunch. The following will be covered:

1. Differences between coloured pencil brands – 'oil-based v. wax-based.'
2. Learning coloured pencil applications and techniques:
 - a. Mark making
 - b. Which colours first?
 - c. Layering
 - d. Blending
 - e. Burnishing
 - f. Embossing
 - g. Resist method
3. Exploring tone, form and light with coloured pencil with botanical studies.

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

Materials List

Faber Castell Polychromos

Cadmium Orange 115	Earth Green Yellowish 168
Pale Geranium Lake 121	Permanent Green Olive 167
Scarlet Red 118	Chrome Oxide Green 278
Deep Scarlet Red 219	Chrome Green Opaque 174
Alizarin Crimson 226	May Green 170

1. Tombow – mono Zero Eraser – **round fine** tipped pen style eraser.



2. Paper: Strathmore Bristol vellum surface 300 series – **Can be bought from the tutor at the workshop at \$2.50 per sheet.**
3. Clear plastic ruler 15-20cm (measuring subject) **(If you have one at home use that.)**
4. A3 smooth paper sketchbook (Officeworks have them around \$10 Born is the brand) or 2 x sheets of smooth cartridge paper for sketching.
5. Graphite pencils – 2H, HB, 2B – Staedtler Mars Lumograph **(recommended brand but other brands ok)**
6. 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:



To be supplied by the art tutor:-

1. Emery paper
2. Students can use the tutor's pencil sharpeners, solvent pens, electric rubber.

Any questions regarding materials you can contact the tutor, Amanda Ahmed, at: amanda.sidahmed@iinet.net.au.

