



Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne

Reviving an ancient technique for modern botanical art

31 January and 1 February 2026

10am-3pm

Instructor's Name: Caterina Leone

Class Description:

Join artist Caterina Leone for a two-day silverpoint workshop set within the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne during the height of summer. Surrounded by living specimens, you'll explore how metal, surface, and pressure interact to create luminous, permanent marks. Caterina will guide you through preparing your own surfaces, observing botanical forms up close, and building delicate tonal shifts as silver slowly oxidises. Through guided exercises, demonstrations, and personalised feedback, you'll develop a refined, deliberate drawing practice and complete your own botanical artwork. You'll also take home your silver stylus so you can continue developing your technique. No prior experience needed—just curiosity and a love of plants.

Materials list:

- cotton gloves
- A 0.7mm mechanical pencil
- a sketchbook or paper for note-taking
- optional: natural object(s) to draw – e.g. a leaf, flower, seedpod or branch

Provided:

Silver, pre-primed papers, bronze wool and other metals, reference photos

Bio:

Caterina Leone is a Melbourne-based artist revitalising the ancient silverpoint technique to explore gender, the societal reading of physical appearance, and our relationship with nature. Originally from Sydney, she studied at the National Art School and worked in arts administration before focusing on her practice. Her work has been exhibited in Australia and the USA, and she is a 2025 Victorian Art Society Coterie scholar.