



**Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne**  
**Term 4 2024 Botanic Art Classes Outline**  
**Saturday 10.00am - 12.00pm**  
**Instructor's Name: David Reynolds**

**Class Description**

Students learn in a relaxed and encouraging atmosphere with plenty of open discussion about watercolour techniques, colour theory, materials and how to use them. Practical demonstrations of each technique will be shown each week as we work through our subject. Student learn and practice techniques used to create accurate drawings and progress to a finished watercolour painting.

Many of the techniques used in botanical art, like 'wet on wet' and 'dry brushing', will be carefully explained and demonstrated giving each student confidence in developing their painting and drawing skills.

**Outcomes**

Our chosen subject will be a stunning Magnolia (*Magnolia x soulangeana*). The delicately marked pinky coloured flower and unique greyed branching structure makes for a wonderful subject to do in watercolour using traditional techniques.

**Class structure**

This class will be presented online via the Zoom Platform and in this class we will cover:

1. Colour mixing using transparent staining washes
2. Understand techniques in building high levels of detail
3. Using wet on wet and dry brush techniques
4. Careful application of masking fluid
5. Creating a painting in watercolour

Each week time will be set aside to review work, provide feedback, discuss progress, and answer any questions. The remainder of the class will be for putting into practice the theories and skills we cover and working on your artwork independently. It is a good idea to set aside time for yourself between classes to practice the skills and cover homework topics.

**Dates for Classes:** Saturday 19th October - Saturday 7th December 2024

**Term Duration:** 8 weeks (2 hours class each week)

**Digital Platform for Classes:** All classes will be presented using Zoom. The Friends of the Gardens have activated all possible security available via Zoom to ensure the platform is safe to use.

***Please ensure you have downloaded the Zoom app on your computer/iPad well before the class starts. If you have downloaded Zoom previously, check the app does not require any updates by clicking on the App.***

**Computer Setup:** From experience we recommend either a laptop computer or iPad however a desktop computer is also suitable provided you are also able to paint/draw in this space.

Engagement via a mobile phone is not practical as it is very difficult to see the fine details presented during demonstrations.

**Preparation:** If you do not already have painting space set up in your home, choose a quiet space to minimise disruptions. If possible, set up with adequate lighting of your painting area using a desk lamp or other suitable lighting options.

**Materials List:** The materials you will require for your class are:

**Brushes** (*suggestions*)

Round Taklon watercolour brushes Sizes #5/0, #1, #4 (Neef 970 Robert Wade)

**Paper**

Arches 300gsm smooth hot press watercolour paper (A3 Size or 1/4 sheet)

Tracing paper

**Pencils and Graphite**

Standard Pencil - 2H

**Palette**

Watercolour palette with individual wells for paint and water or a large white dinner plate  
(Try to avoid small round plastic palettes as they tend to repel water)

**Misc**

Tissues

Water Jar

Kneadable eraser

Masking fluid

Speedball Hunt Globe EF513 Nib and Holder

**Watercolour Pigments**

- Winsor Lemon
- Winsor Yellow Deep
- Permanent Rose
- Scarlet Lake
- Winsor Blue (Green Shade)
- Indanthrene Blue
- Burnt Umber
- Burnet Sienna
- Titanium White Opaque

If you have questions please contact the Friends on (03) 9650 6398



*Magnolia x soulangeana* commonly known as the Saucer Magnolia, is a beautiful and widely admired deciduous magnolia hybrid. This tree is often used as a feature tree and is celebrated for its stunning early spring blooms.