



Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne

Drawing with Graphite I

Tuesdays 2pm-4.30pm at Domain House

Term 4

Instructor's Name: Amanda Ahmed

Class Description:

This course is a beginners' 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 with little to no experience in botanical drawing or for students wanting to 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. Some subjects to be explored will be tomatoes, a basic leaf and gumnuts. 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. 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 fine layering techniques.
4. Explore tonal variances to create realistic 3D effects.

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 15 October 2024

Finishing date of term: Tuesday 10 December 2024.

(Note: No classes will be held on 5 November, Cup Day.)

Materials list

- 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.
- Pencils** 4H, 2H, H, HB, 2B, 4B (Staedtler Mars – Lumograph – this is the preferred brand but if you already have graphite pencils bring those in).
- Rubbers** 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.
- Other** Medium sized handheld flat surface magnifying glass without inbuilt light – **must have! Available at art suppliers, Officeworks, newsagents, Australia Post shops, online. Note: small magnifying glasses are not practical.**
Clear plastic ruler 15-20cm long is sufficient
Small pencil sharpener – good brands are Kum, Staedtler, Faber Castell, Prismacolor.
Don't spend over \$10! Note: Can use tutor's sharpeners Derwent super point and Mitsubishi to get super fine long points.

Recommended art suppliers: theartshop.com.au, Seniors, Eckersleys but any other art suppliers will be fine. Also recommend Officeworks. Any questions regarding materials you can contact Amanda at: amanda.sidahmed@iinet.net.au.

The following will be provided at classes:

1. Drawing subjects
2. Black emery paper
3. Tracing paper
4. Arches 300gms hot pressed watercolour paper available at \$5 a quarter sheet. **Note: students will need this paper to do studies, so in order to keep costs to a minimum, quarter sheets can be purchased in class rather than buying a full A2 sheet at art suppliers.**

The following can be borrowed from the tutor:

5. Stanley knife (if you already own one please bring in)
6. Soldering iron stand** (sounds weird but for holding subjects)
7. Foamcore boards** (for backdrop behind subjects)

****Can be purchased from tutor if continuing with classes in 2025.**





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