



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

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

**Mondays 6pm-8pm online**

**Term 1**

#### **Instructor's Name: Amanda Ahmed**

This introductory coloured pencil course is designed for beginners and students continuing on from Term 4, 2024. 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 from life 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 also be time allocated for warm-up exercises in graphite.

#### **Outcomes:**

By the end of the term, you will have completed several exercises in coloured pencil and produced at least one fully rendered coloured pencil drawing. You will gain increased confidence in drawing from life and a basic understanding of coloured pencil techniques. Additionally, through a series of warm-up exercises in graphite, you will have developed a collection of sketches in your sketchbook.

#### **Class structure:**

This class will be held in Term 1 on Mondays online from 6pm-8pm. The following will be covered:

1. Practice eye-hand coordination with drawing exercises (graphite).
2. Introduction to 3- line drawing technique (graphite and coloured pencil)
3. Introduction to using geometric shapes to assist with drawing natural forms (graphite and coloured pencil).
4. Introduction to basic coloured pencil application using layering techniques.
5. Review of basic colour theory.
6. 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: Monday 3 February 2025**

**Finishing date of term: Monday 7 April 2025**

**(Note: there are no classes on Monday 24 February and 10 March 2025)**

## 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  
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 A4 Pad of Strathmore Bristol **Vellum 300 series** (buy online <https://www.amazon.com.au/Strathmore-Bristol-Vellum-Paper-Sheets/dp/B0027A7K22?th=1> ) Note: must be vellum 300 series, not 400 or 500

**Pencils** 2H, H, HB, 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 oil-based pencil and excellent for botanical drawing. These can all be bought individually.

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

Deep Scarlet Red 219  
Alizarin Crimson 226  
Scarlet Red 118  
Pale Geranium Lake 121  
Cadmium Orange 111

**Blender** Lyra Splendor Blender colourless blender pencil

**Rubbers** Kent battery eraser with interchangeable nibs – should be around \$11  
Tombow – mono Zero Eraser – fine tipped pen style eraser.

**Sharpener** For new students a small pencil sharpener – good brands are Kum, Staedtler, Faber Castell, Prismacolor - **don't spend over \$10!**

For continuing students, it is worth investing in a Derwent Helical Manual Sharpener which can range from \$25-29.



**Other** Medium sized handheld flat surface magnifying glass – **must have! Available at art suppliers, Officeworks, newsagents, Australia Post shops or online – no more than \$15. Note: small magnifying glasses are not practical.**  
Clear plastic ruler 15-20cm (measuring subject)  
Stainless steel ruler 30cm (cutting guide for Arches paper above) **Don't spend more than \$3-4 or if you have something at home you can use that is fine.**

Recommended art suppliers: [theartshop.com.au](http://theartshop.com.au) (online purchasing, home delivered with competitive prices), Seniors, Eckersleys, Melbourne Art Supplies or any other reputable art suppliers. Also recommend Officeworks. Any questions regarding materials you can contact Amanda at: [amanda.sidahmed@iinet.net.au](mailto:amanda.sidahmed@iinet.net.au).





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