



Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne

Botanical Drawing with Graphite I

Tuesdays 2pm-4.30pm at Domain House

Term 1

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 students wanting to further 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 possible subjects to be explored will be fruit and vegetables with interesting forms, leaves and pods. 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 1 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.
5. For returning students, continue to build upon graphite techniques learned in 2024.

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 4 February 2025

Finishing date of term: Tuesday 8 April 2025.

(Note: No classes will be held on 4 March and 11 March)

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.
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 sheet Arches 300gms smooth hot pressed watercolour paper which will need to be cut into 4 x sheets. **(Note: if possible, please keep flat and not rolled, once cut store in a plastic sleeve to protect it. Please do not substitute with Arches watercolour pad.)**
- 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
New students: 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.
For continuing students, it is worth investing in a Derwent Helical Manual Sharpener which can range from \$25-29.



Recommended art suppliers: theartshop.com.au, Seniors, Eckersleys, Melbourne Art Supplies, 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.



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The following will be provided by the tutor at classes:

1. Drawing subjects
2. Black emery paper
3. Stanley knife (if you already own one please bring in)
4. Soldering iron stand (sounds weird but for holding subjects)
5. Foamcore boards (for backdrop behind subjects)

