



Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne

Term 1 2025 Botanical Art

Intermediate/Advanced Face to Face Art Class

Friday 10.30am to 1.30pm Domain House

Instructor's Name: Dianne Emery

Class Description:

We will continue to develop the painting, drawing and observational skills necessary to create accurate and realistic Botanical and Natural History Art, for example:

- How to utilise and portray light to create the forms, tone, textures, and surfaces we see in our subject.
- Mixing and using colours, understanding and using colour biases and using underpainting to convey the illusion of light, shadow, depth, transparency, and distance.
- Practise brush and pencil techniques.
- Sketching from life using a constructive approach.
- Developing observational skills and drawing with confidence.
- Developing confidence and creativity with planning and composition.
- Subject matter will be the flowering plants, seeds, bulbs, fruit, and Natural History subjects available at the time.

Some experimentation with different mediums is always encouraged. We will use Natural History as well as Botanical subjects.

- We will encourage the more experienced students to develop confidence in carrying out their own artistic ideas and projects.
- Personal one on one discussion, tuition and advice will always be available to all students.
- Homework will be recommended

Outcomes:

Students will develop confidence and accuracy in drawing and painting from life. Their skills of accurate observation and rendering different surfaces will be enhanced. Using tools such as constructive drawing and understanding light effects they will be able to improve the illusions of forms in space, as well as creating interesting compositions relevant to their subjects.

Researching and understanding the subject matter, the botany and morphological structure of the subject matter will enhance their understanding and appreciation of the natural world.

Class structure:

A class project will be available each week and homework will be recommended. Students working on their own projects will be encouraged and supported together with one-on-one discussions and tuition. All students will have one-on-one support and discussions about their work as well as there being general class discussions and critiques.

Starting Date: 14 February 2025

Finishing date: 4 April 2025

Materials : Materials will be recommended during the term according to the subject or project.

