

Botanical Drawing I and II
with Amanda Ahmed
Term 2, 2025
QHub Auditorium
49-55 Hesse Street, Queenscliff

Class Description:

This structured class is designed for beginners to intermediate students, offering the choice to focus on drawing with either graphite or coloured pencil. While students with limited experience are encouraged to begin with graphite before progressing to coloured pencil, this is not mandatory.

New students will learn the fundamentals of botanical drawing, including form, tone, various mark-making techniques, and how to recognize and translate basic geometric shapes found in nature into their drawings. More experienced students will explore advanced coloured pencil techniques and colour theory.

At both levels, the emphasis is on observational drawing from life to create realistic botanical renderings. The class is conducted in a friendly and supportive environment, making it ideal for those who have completed an introduction to botanical art or wish to develop and refine 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 either graphite or coloured pencil. You will have developed more confidence in drawing from life and a good understanding of basic graphite and coloured pencil techniques.

Class structure:

During the term, the following will be covered:

1. Practicing hand-eye coordination with a series of drawing exercises.
2. Reviewing basics of drawing using 3- line technique and learn about other geometric tools to assist with drawing natural forms.
3. Learning graphite pencil applications and techniques.
4. Learning different coloured pencil applications and techniques.
5. Explore tone, form and light with graphite and coloured pencil to create realistic 3D effects.
6. Review.

Time will be set aside to review work, provide feedback, discuss progress, and answer questions.

Class dates: 8, 22 May; 5, 19 June; 3 July

Class times: 10am-3.30pm with 30 mins for lunch

Drawing I and II Materials

For both levels:

1. Graphite pencils – 4H, 2H, H, B, HB, 2B, 4B (Staedtler Mars – Lumograph – this is the preferred brand but if you have another brand already use that) (Art supplier/also try Officeworks)
2. Kneadable rubber (Art supplier)
3. Tombow – Mono Zero Eraser – fine tipped pen style eraser, (Art supplier/ Officeworks)
4. A3 cartridge paper drawing pad – **must be smooth surface** (Art supplier/Officeworks)
5. Graphite only students: Arches watercolour paper 300gsm hot pressed smooth 1 x sheet (Art supplier). **Please keep flat and cut into 4 x sheets. Do not purchase Arches watercolour pad as a substitute. Note: will require a plastic sleeve with cardboard to store the paper.**
6. Clear plastic ruler 15-20cm long (Officeworks/Art Suppliers)
7. Tracing paper – 2 x A3 or A2 **sheets (not pad is expensive)** (Art supplier/maybe Officeworks)
8. Hand-held flat surface magnifying glass (**must have**) – (Post Office, Officeworks, Art supplier, Online magnifying glass supplier)

Suggested colour pencils (for Drawing II students)

Faber-Castell Polychromos

IMPORTANT: PLEASE DO NOT BUY UNTIL THIS LIST IS CONFIRMED IN APRIL AS THE COLOURS ARE DEPENDENT ON SUBJECT(S) TO BE UNDERTAKEN.

Minimum (depending on subject):	Recommended extras:
Ivory 103	Dark Chrome Yellow 109
Pale Geranium Lake 121	Cadmium Orange 115
Scarlet Red 118	Crimson 134
Deep Scarlet Red 219	Fuschia 123
Alizarin Crimson 226	Madder 142
Red Violet 194	Salmon 130
Magenta 133	Earth Green 172
May Green 170	Light Yellow Ochre 183
Earth Green Yellowish 168	Naples Yellow 185
Chrome Oxide Green 278	Light Phthalo Blue 145
Chrome Green Opaque 174	Burnt Siena 283
Dark Sepia 175	Walnut Brown 177

9. Paper:
Strathmore Bristol vellum surface 300 series 9x12 inches pad of 20 Sheets. Available online e.g. <https://www.amazon.com.au/Strathmore-Bristol-Vellum-Paper-Sheets/dp/B0027A7K22?th=1>
OR
Arches watercolour paper 300gsm hot pressed smooth 1 x sheet (Art supplier). **Please keep flat and cut into 4 x sheets. Do not purchase Arches watercolour pad as a substitute. Note: will require a plastic sleeve with cardboard to store the paper.**
10. Lyra Splendor Blender colourless blender pencil (Art suppliers)
11. Copic Colourless Blender Pen with fine tip (Art suppliers/Officeworks) – like a marker pen with no colour just solvent.

12. Kent battery powered electric eraser with refills (Art suppliers/Officerworks) do not substitute with Derwent battery powered electric eraser.
13. Pencil sharpener – Derwent Superpoint Manual Helical pencil sharpener (Art suppliers/online
Note: price can differ widely between suppliers so please check online first.)



Recommend Cavalier Art Supplies Geelong and theartshop.com.au (for online purchases) but any other good art suppliers will be fine. Also recommend Officeworks. Any questions regarding materials, you can Amanda directly at amanda.sidahmed@iinet.net.au.

