

**Botanical Drawing
with Amanda Ahmed
Term 3, 2026
QHub Auditorium
49-55 Hesse Street, Queenscliff**

Class Description:

This structured class is designed for beginner to intermediate students, with the option to work in graphite or coloured pencil. While those with limited experience are encouraged to begin with graphite before moving on to coloured pencil, this is not a requirement.

New students will build a solid foundation in botanical drawing, learning how to capture form and tone, practise a variety of mark-making techniques, and use basic geometric shapes as the building blocks for creating botanical artworks.

More experienced students will extend their skills through advanced coloured pencil techniques and colour theory.

At all levels, the focus is on close observation to produce accurate and lifelike botanical renderings. The class is conducted in a friendly and supportive environment, where you'll be encouraged to develop your skills at your own pace.

Outcomes:

By the end of the term, you will have completed a series of sketches and studies and created at least one fully rendered drawing in either graphite or coloured pencil. Subjects will vary with the seasons and may include fruit, vegetables, or plants with interesting forms and colours. Along the way, you'll build confidence in your drawing skills and develop a solid grounding in graphite and/or coloured pencil techniques.

Class structure:

The classes are held Thursdays (fortnightly) during the school term from 10am-3.30pm with 30mins for lunch. During the term, the following will be covered:

1. Practicing hand-eye coordination and building observational skills with a series of drawing exercises.
2. Using geometric shapes as building blocks 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. The remainder of the class will be time for learning and working on your artwork independently. Class notes and/or video will be supplied providing step by step guide to subjects undertaken.

Term dates are:

16, 30 July

13, 27 August

10 September

Materials list

Please read this carefully. Make sure all purchases are checked off list before paying for them. Do not accept cheaper alternatives other than what is listed below.

Coloured pencil and graphite students:

Paper A3 cartridge paper drawing pad – must be smooth surface – try Officeworks around \$10-\$20

A4 pad of tracing paper – nothing expensive. **If you are able to purchase individual sheets of tracing paper that would be more cost effective.**

Pencils 4H, 2H, H, HB, B, 2B, 4B (Staedtler Mars – Lumograph – this is the preferred brand but if you already have graphite pencils use those).

Rubbers Kneadable rubber

Kent battery eraser with interchangeable nibs – should be around \$11. **Important: this has small rubber. Do not buy other brands (e.g. Derwent) with large rubbers**

Tombow – Mono Zero Eraser – **fine tipped pen style eraser**. Must be round not rectangle.



Sharpener New students can use the tutor's sharpeners supplied in class.

Continuing students, it is worth investing in either a MUJI Manual Pencil Sharpener W55 x H103 x D106mm available from Muji stores or online for \$9.95 **OR** a Derwent Helical Manual Sharpener which is around \$35. **Note: try and purchase the Derwent one with the metal casing not the plastic casing.**



Other Clear plastic ruler 15-20cm (measuring subject)

Medium sized handheld magnifying glass – **must have!** Available at art suppliers, **Officeworks, newsagents, Australia Post shops or online** – don't spend more than \$15. **Note: small magnifying glasses are not practical. See example below:**



Graphite students

Paper Arches Hot Press Smooth 300gsm watercolour paper **sheet not pad**. Try and keep flat and do not dint the paper.

Note: new students can purchase from tutor (\$5 a ¼ sheet, \$10 a ½ sheet)

Coloured pencil students

Paper **Current coloured pencil students** who have a pad of Strathmore Bristol Vellum 300 series, please continue with that paper.

New coloured pencil students can purchase paper from the art tutor in class using either Strathmore Bristol Vellum 300 series **(\$2.50 a sheet)** or Arches Hot Press Smooth 300gsm watercolour paper **(\$5 a ¼ sheet, \$10 a ½ sheet)**

Pencils The recommended coloured pencils are **Faber-Castell Polychromos*** as they are a hard pencil and excellent for botanical drawing. These can all be bought individually.**

The subject for term 3 will be an enlarged flower of a moth orchid. The FC Polychromos pencils recommended are:

Red Violet 194
Manganese Violet 160
Middle Cadmium Red 217
Crimson 134
Pink Madder Lake 129
Middle Purple Pink 125
Deep Red 223

Deep Scarlet Red 219
Fuschia 123
Light Purple Pink 128
Naples Yellow 185
Dark Cadmium Yellow 108
White 101

Depending on how things go, we might use some greens later in the term.

***Note: it is easy to mistake FC watercolour pencils for the FC Polychromos – please be mindful when choosing.**

****there might be more pencils added to this list during the term**

Note: small to medium packs of FC Polychromos will not have all the above pencils. Recommend buying individually (cheapest) or a complete set of 120 (expensive).

Solvent Copic Colourless Marker Pen with the super brush tip (below) – available at art suppliers and Officeworks



Blender Lyra Splendor Blender colourless blender pencil

The art tutor will supply the following:

- Drawing subjects
- 'Helping hands' stands for subjects – when required
- White foamcore boards as backdrops for botanical subjects
- Drawing boards

Recommended art suppliers: theartshop.com.au (onsite Bayswater or online purchasing - **competitive prices \$2.70 each for FC Polychromos**), Senior Art Supplies, Melbourne Art Supplies or any other reputable art suppliers. Note: Eckersleys FC individual coloured pencils are expensive! Also recommend Officeworks for some stationery. Any questions regarding materials you can contact Amanda at: amanda.sidahmed@iinet.net.au. **Tip:** ring ahead if buying from store to check all colours are available as some might need to be ordered in.