

Peninsula Art Society
Botanical Drawing with Coloured Pencil
with Amanda Ahmed

Sundays (fortnightly) 19 July; 2, 16, 30 August; 13 September 2026

10am-3.30pm

Term 3

Class description:

This introductory coloured pencil course is ideal for both beginners and continuing students. You'll learn the fundamentals of botanical drawing with coloured pencils, including how to create form, tone and depth, apply layering techniques, and use basic geometric shapes in nature to strengthen your work. With an emphasis on close observation, the focus will be on producing realistic botanical renderings.

Classes take place in a friendly, supportive environment where you'll be encouraged to grow your skills at your own pace. While most sessions will centre on coloured pencil techniques, we'll also include some graphite warm-up exercises to support and enhance your overall drawing practice.

Outcomes:

By the end of the term, you will have completed a series of coloured pencil exercises and created at least one fully rendered drawing. 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 coloured pencil techniques. We'll also include a few sketchbook warm-ups in graphite to support your learning.

Class structure:

This class will be held in **Term 3** on **Sundays** (usually fortnightly) at the Peninsula Art Society from **10am-3.30pm with 30mins for lunch**. The following will be covered:

1. Practice eye-hand coordination with drawing exercises (graphite).
2. Introduction to using geometric shapes to assist with drawing natural forms (graphite and coloured pencil).
3. Introduction to basic coloured pencil application using layering techniques.
4. Review of basic colour theory.
5. 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. Class notes and/or video will be supplied providing step by step guide to subjects undertaken.

Class dates:

19 July
2, 16, 30 August
13 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.

Paper A3 cartridge paper drawing pad – must be smooth surface – try Officeworks \$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.**

1 x pad of Strathmore Bristol Vellum 300 series (buy online) Link below is for <https://www.amazon.com.au/Strathmore-Bristol-Vellum-Paper-Sheets/dp/B0027A7K22?th=1>) **New students for the term will be able to purchase from the art tutor in class at \$2.50 a sheet. Ongoing students are to purchase their own supply of SBV.**

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).

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 green and red gumnuts. The FC Polychromos pencils recommended are:

Chrome Oxide Green 278	Alizarin Crimson 226
Chromium Green Opaque 174	Red Violet 194
Earth Green Yellowish 168	Magenta 133
May Green 170	Indian Red 192
Permanent Green Olive 167	Naples Yellow 185
Deep Scarlet Red 219	Walnut Brown 177
Dark Sepia 175	Burnt Siena 283
Pale Geranium Lake 121	Light Ultramarine 140

***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).

Blender - Lyra Splendor Blender colourless blender pencil

Rubbers - Kneadable rubber

- **Optional:** 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.**

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 from art suppliers. **Note: try and purchase the Derwent one with the metal casing not the plastic casing.**

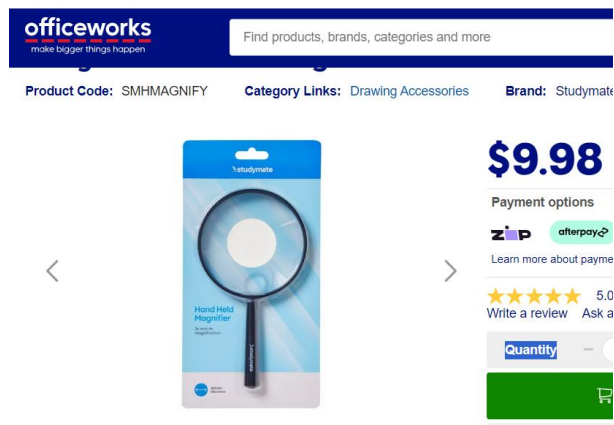


Solvent - Copic Colourless Marker Pen with the super brush tip – available at art suppliers and Officeworks



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:**



Recommended art suppliers: Senior Art Supplies Frankston (10% student discount), theartshop.com.au (shop in Bayswater or online purchasing with quick turnaround - **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! Currently \$4.35 each online. 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.