

Friends of the Geelong Botanic Gardens

Botanical Art Classes

Term 1 2021, Fortnightly Tuesdays 9.30am-4.30pm

Tutor: Amanda Blake-Sutterby

Class description:

These classes will focus on botanical art, with predominantly the use of watercolor paints. The aim will be to achieve realistic works of botanic specimens to a standard that satisfies the students and will be of a standard appropriate for exhibition if desired. I prefer students to paint subject matter that they are familiar with and personally engaged with. The classes will assist students to paint from real life subjects that they have collected from the gardens (with permission), or from their own private resources. Areas covered in classes will be basic color theory, incorporating use of tone, light and shadow. We will explore different painting techniques, blending and mark making, along with balance, and compositional elements. Students will see through careful observation that both randomness and order co-exist in the plant world, and there will be time dedicated to the study of plant anatomy as foundational learning for the art practice.

The classes will be relaxed, friendly and supportive. It will be “safe space” for students to share ideas, work collaboratively and grow as individuals as they learn new techniques and improve self-confidence. The classes will be suited to both beginners and intermediate students who may have painted previously. No previous experience is necessary however, just a love of botanic art and a desire to learn.

Outcomes:

At the end of the term you will have a series of small painting studies and painting exercises in your port folio. You will have one larger completed painting or near completed painting.

Class Structure:

Classes start at 9.30am and finish at 4.30pm on a Tuesday (Fortnightly classes). You may elect to have 30 mins or 1 hour lunch break, but you may even prefer to work through. It will be entirely up to the individual as to when they take their breaks. I am very flexible about this! You will need to bring along your own lunch or snacks. Tea and coffee are available in the kitchen.

On some occasions we will do a learning exercise as a group, but if some students feel competent, they can continue to work on their own projects instead. All students will receive individual assistance and guidance as required. There will be time to explore the beautiful and unique Geelong Botanic gardens, and opportunities to immerse yourself in the stunning surroundings to assist with your inspiration. Some students may wish to develop skills in larger scale botanic painting in acrylic or gouache paints. This is of course possible, and will be discussed with interested individuals as required.

Class dates:

February 9th 2021, February 23rd

March 9th, March 23rd

April 6th

