Missenden School of Creative Arts

Course Information Sheet

Course Code: 3420-08

Clematis in Coloured Pencil

Roger Reynolds

17th - 18th Aug 2020
Monday to Tuesday

The garden Clematis provides an opportunity to use the versatility of coloured pencils to the full. Choose your subject carefully and you can have challenging colours to mix, superb leaf curls to draw and textures to work at that make you grab for your pencils. We will look at layout, drawing, researching colours and how to build up textures for a really attractive piece of work.

Course Location:
Missenden Abbey

Great Missenden
Buckinghamshire HP16 0BD

Monday	
9am	Coffee on arrival
9.15am	Welcome and tutor introductions
9.30am-1pm	Teaching session
1-2pm	Lunch for all
2-5pm	Teaching session
6.45 for 7pm	Dinner for residents
Tuesday	
7-9.15am	Breakfast for residents
9.30am-1pm	Teaching session
1-2pm	Lunch for all
2-5pm	Last teaching session

Description

Almost every garden has a Clematis that is a wonderful subject for coloured pencil workers; the flowers come in a wide variety of shapes and colours, from whites to deep rich reds, blues and purples. The curling leaves act as a wonderful foil to the very clear-cut shapes of the flowers and the versatility of the coloured pencils provide an ideal medium to capture the extensive colour range of these beautiful blooms. The course will deal with the techniques of layout, drawing and how to handle your pencil-work to best effect, including selection of colours, layering and building up the colours, textures and patterns of the blooms (and the leaves as well). In many Clematis flowers the anthers are lighter than the petals, which poses a problem in constructing the illustration. How to get round the difficulty will be discussed along with demonstrated solutions, so it should be a course for hard work but ultimate satisfaction.

Please bring with you

The best paper is watercolour paper, reasonably thick, 300g/m2 (140lbs), and smooth i.e. hot pressed (HP) such as Fabriano Classico 5 or Fabriano Artistico. (see below).
It is helpful to have a stiff, smooth backing board to support your work, probably A4 or possibly larger (but will be available on loan from MSCA)
Graphite pencils for initial drawing, but soft e.g. B, HB, (not hard pencils H, 2H)
Pencil Eraser - putty rubber ones are particularly useful
If you have mechanical pencil sharpeners, please bring them. (I discourage electric sharpeners, but only because they tend to 'eat' pencils.)
A sharp craft knife (Swann-Morton scalpels are best) so you can put a very fine point on your pencils
I usually have a small shallow plastic box with a lid that I can 'sharpen' into so that pencil dust can be kept under control round my working area. It might be helpful to set yourself up with something similar.
A large soft brush (traditionally a feather) is useful for sweeping away pencil debris from your work.
Paper towel kitchen roll is useful for several jobs.
If you bring or buy pencils please make sure they are from top quality manufactures, e.g. Faber Castell, Caran D'ache, Derwent, Prismacolor, but it doesn't matter whether they are oil based, wax based or water-soluble. You can only reach quality work from quality pencils!
If you want to illustrate your own plants then please bring them, you will then have your specimens to take home to complete your work. Travelling with large blooms can be difficult because the plant can suffer from being knocked so that buds fall off etc. This is particularly so if you travel by train. Specimens will be available for loan

but to take them home you may have to purchase the plant. N.B. Full sets of pencils (120) from Faber Castell will be available on loan for the course, as will pencil sharpeners and other essential equipment. You do not need to go out and buy everything. Lack of appropriate materials should not prevent you from attending this course. Simply assemble what materials you have. Nobody will ever be 'stuck' because they do not have a particular item from this list because the tutor will either loan you the appropriate equipment or provide consumables which may be purchased at cost price.

Available to purchase from the tutor

Larger sizes of paper will be available at cost price.

Level

Suitable for all levels

About Roger Reynolds

Roger is a botanical illustrator who works in watercolour and coloured pencil. He is a long standing fellow of the Society of Botanical Artists where his work has been awarded a certificate of botanical merit, and has been used in their publications. He has exhibited at their annual exhibition in Westminster since 2004. In 2016 he was awarded a gold medal by the Royal Horticultural Society for his work illustrating plants. He is a member of the Institute for Analytical Plant Illustration which fosters the links between botanists and illustrators and he has an honours degree in botany. In 2018 he was a participant in the day of international botanical art exhibitions and as a member of the Association of British Botanical Art, represented the UK. www.rogerreynoldsbotanicalart.com