

Plein air painting with Mel Hills at the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens.
Monday mornings 9:30am-12:30pm
4 weeks.
November 16 & 23 NOT 30th, December 7th and 14th 2026

Plein air painting is about observational response and the adventure of being in the NOW.
How it is rendered/interpreted is up to the individual. (;

These sessions are best suited to artists with some prior painting experience that are wanting to extend their painting to the outdoors.
It is a great way to develop skills, confidence and resilience.

Topics covered include subject selection, composition, the challenge of changing light conditions, and of course the weather!
All this encourages you to work fast which is a great way to learn economy of line and form and loosen up.

Mel will be sketching and demonstrating using watercolour, pen and wash and oil paint.
Students are encouraged to use any media they want (and can carry easily) - branch out and try new things!
Seriously, what you feel most comfortable with works best.
Mel will share her experience and guide you as you respond to the landscape whilst encouraging you to work in your own style.

Expensive art supplies are not required:

Paper -150gsm+ can take more water and withstand more punishment, but lighter papers work for one pass.

Other supplies:

- Sense of humour
- Seat
- Clipboard or support
- Bulldog clips to frustrate the wind
- Ballpoint pen for sketching (bic)
- 2b pencil - mechanical (?) or sharpener etc
- Paints and brushes of choice- keep it simple
- A water reservoir- cup or lidded container . A small spray bottle of water is useful too.

Comfortable, practical shoes and clothes

Long sleeves

A warm layer (aka. Cushion when it's hot)

A stylish brimmed hat

Sunblock

Drinking water

Pocket snack

(Always be prepared for the food venue to be inconvenienced!)