

**THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF NEW YORK
&
THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF BOTANICAL ARTISTS**

PRESENT

THE TENTH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL JURIED BOTANICAL ART EXHIBITION 2007

September 18 – November 16, 2007

OPENING RECEPTION

Tuesday, September 18, from 6:00 – 8:00 pm

at

**The Horticultural Society of New York
148 West 37th Street, 13th Floor
New York, NY 10018**

The Tenth Annual International Juried Botanical Art Exhibition, on view at The Horticultural Society of New York (HSNY) features a juried selection of works from The American Society of Botanical Artists (ASBA). For the past ten years the show has been co-sponsored by the two cultural non-profit organizations.

Chosen from a field of 244 submissions, the forty-one botanical artworks, selected by jurors Jutta Buck, Evelyn L. Kraus, and Jessica Tcherepnine, have been created by artists from the US, Australia, Canada, Israel, Japan, and the UK. A full-color catalog of the exhibition has been published and will be available for purchase at the exhibition.

This exhibition has become the premier venue for showcasing what's happening in the field of botanical art. It is evidence that botanical art continues to be a vibrant and evolving art form, and increasingly relevant in these times of environmental change. Some artworks depict garden plants, food plants, and some wild species, individually, in groups or in micro-habitats.

If you love food, you'll see it in a new way, as it is often depicted in its more elemental form by the botanical artist. Observe Donelda LaBrake's grouping of a late summer harvest, with squashes, nuts, and beans look as if they've been aimlessly gathered fresh from field and forest. The *Rutabaga*, as depicted by Jean Emmons in watercolor on vellum, seems like a powerful homage to time - its tangle of roots and sprouting leaves are a record of a human's intervention, tearing it out of the soil and chopping off the top. Julie Sims Messenger's works are always fresh and graphic, and her *Mexican Papaya Tree* shows the muscularity and volume of a bunch of fruit as they grow on the plant, rather than the way we often see them, groomed in a supermarket bin.

The wild world is represented in the show as well. One of the first plants we develop a relationship with is the lowly *Dandelion*, and Ingrid Finnan's bouquet feels like something we may have gathered as a child, flowers, seedheads, roots and all, leaving our hands redolent with their lemony scent. Walks in the woods through musty leaf duff can be recalled looking at Sally Markell's *Fly Agaric*, the poisonous wild mushroom, depicted with some of the surrounding detritus. This exhibition could predict a trend toward the more naturalistic rendering of plant life, a more integrative view of the botanical world.

There is no shortage of the just plain beautiful, either. *Anemones* are velvety and brilliant in Lizzie Sanders' watercolor, and the ebullient tangle of *Clematis* manifests in Milly Acharya's watercolor. Annie Patterson's *Ornamental Kale* is stunning in its luminescent perfection, but a snail's shell nearby reminds us of the gardener's struggles to achieve this aesthetic excellence.

The American Society of Botanical Artists has a membership of over 1000 from the U. S. and 16 other countries. Its Mission is to promote public awareness of botanical art, its historical foundations, and its growth into the new millennium.

Founded in 1900 and incorporated in 1902, HSNY's mission is to enhance our City's environmental and cultural life by providing unique educational, vocational, and therapeutic outreach programs, library resources, and art exhibitions. As a cultural institution, HSNY's Exhibitions Program encourages a public appreciation and understanding of fine art in the realm of horticulture. This unique exhibitions program is dedicated to showing painting, sculpture, drawing, photography, video and other works specifically created around the ideas and tenets of horticulture.

The Gallery at The Horticultural Society of New York is open Monday - Friday from 11am - 6pm and by appointment. 148 West 37th Street, 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018 (Between Broadway and Seventh Avenue).

For further information, please contact:

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