



American Society of Botanical Artists  
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[www.asba-art.org](http://www.asba-art.org)

For immediate release:

## 18<sup>th</sup> Annual International

American Society of Botanical Artists and The Horticultural Society of New York  
at The New York Design Center, 200 Lexington Ave., New York, NY  
November 4 – December 30, 2015

### Opening Reception & Awards Ceremony

Wednesday, November 4, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm

### VIP Reception & Press Preview

Wednesday, November 4 from 5:00pm to 6:00pm

Please RSVP by October 28 to [Scourtade@thehort.org](mailto:Scourtade@thehort.org)



Images: Betsy Rogers-Knox,  
*Dragon Arum*, Ku-mie Kim,  
*Southern Magnolia*; Liz Shippam  
*Opal Plums*

New York's premier showcase of contemporary botanical art opens November 4, featuring some of the genre's most established artists alongside emerging talents. For the first time, the exhibition is hosted by the New York Design Center. Artworks were selected from 234 submissions by jurors Susan Fraser, David Horak, and Catherine Watters. The forty-four works are by artists from the United States, Australia, Canada, Japan, The Netherlands, Russia, and the UK.

Botanical artists are known for their celebratory depictions of the harvest, and that affinity is represented here. Asuka Hishiki's (Japan) two rhythmic watercolors depict root vegetables *Turnips* and *Watermelon Radishes* show leaves, roots, and imperfect edible orbs. Brussels Sprouts are counterintuitively shown as a voluminous horizontal column by Katy Lyness (US). And Liz Shippam (UK) displays a cropped, photoreal section of *Opal Plums* in watercolor, skillfully rendering the evocative dusty bloom on richly colored plums. In *Raspberries Past Prime*, Connie Scanlon (US) captures that fleeting end of season when raspberries are juicy and delicious, but the vine is already curling up.

Russian artist Alexander Viazmensky's work has long centered on depicting mushrooms, and his purple and sienna *Cortinarius* includes all the bits of duff, leaf, and twig, that accompany them in their forest home. Rare pitcher plants are shown in situ in Betsy Rogers-Knox's (US) watercolor of *The Bog*, and native orchids and mosses in Kelly Leahy Radding's (US) watercolor on vellum *A Piece of the North Woods* are among a wave of habitat paintings that tell a more complete ecological story about the artist's chosen subject.

Trees are richly represented. Robert McNeill (UK) shows a large-scale, parasol-like arrangement of *Rogersia podophylla* with autumn's brilliant light reflecting off dried brown leaves. A single Bunya Pine Scale is shown in intense detail and takes on an iconic presence in Mali Moir's (Australia) watercolor on vellum, and an entire branch of *Southern Magnolia* with heavy fruit and glossy leaves is painted in watercolor by Ku-mie Kim (US).

Flowers appear in abundance, from Rosalind Allchin's (Canada) brown, dried and crispy composition in browns, *Elecampagne* to Milly Acharya's (US) exuberant, brilliantly colored watercolor, *Crococsmia*. Ingrid Finnan (US) has mastered oil on paper depictions of botanical subjects, and her *Panicled Hydrangea II* is a muscular rendition in a dynamic composition. And renowned colorist Jean Emmons' exotic Mouse Plant, a watercolor on vellum, brings leaves and strange flowers emerging out of the snow to life, through an interplay of color and movement.

The broad range of styles and subject matter bring to light the rebirth and vitality of the genre, and leave one excitedly anticipating what's to come.

The American Society of Botanical Artists has a membership of over 1,300 from the United States and 25 other countries. Its mission is to promote public awareness of botanical art, honor its traditions and further its development.

The Horticultural Society of New York's Gallery encourages gardeners and artists alike to appreciate the creative intersection between art and nature with exhibitions that showcase emerging and established contemporary artists inspired by horticulture, botany, landscape, and the environment.

For further information, please contact:

ASBA at 866-691-9080 / [exhibitions@asba-art.org](mailto:exhibitions@asba-art.org) / [www.asba-art.org](http://www.asba-art.org) or

The Hort at 212-757-0915 x121 / [Scourtade@thehort.org](mailto:Scourtade@thehort.org) [www.thehort.org](http://www.thehort.org)

The New York Design Center, 200 Lexington Ave, New York is open Monday – Friday from 9:30 – 5:30.