



American Society of Botanical Artists.
**A CODE OF ETHICS FOR THE BOTANICAL ARTIST
WORKING IN THE FIELD.**

American Society of Botanical Artists
at The New York Botanical Garden
200th St & Kazimiroff Blvd
Bronx NY 10458-5126

www.AmSocBotArtists.org
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Objective:

To establish a set of standards, protocols and guidelines to ensure ethical behavior when working with native flora (common, rare and endangered) in the field. These protocols shall be the recognized professional procedure to which all members must agree to adhere, as a prerequisite to membership.

Justification:

With the growing interest in native flora it is prudent that recognized ethical standards be established for the botanical artist to follow when working in the field.

Given that the overwhelming majority of botanical artists are concerned about the conservation of the native flora that are their subjects, but that the training of a botanical artist does not necessarily involve learning the principals of conservation science, however, guidance in how to practice botanical art without causing ecological damage is vital.

People knowledgeable of the locations of certain plant species may have legitimate conservation related reasons for keeping those locations from becoming known to the general public. This can run contrary to the needs of botanical artists who have legitimate reasons to need access to those species in their natural habitats, for effective documentation.

Such a set of protocols offers assurance to botanical institutions and botanical curators of all kinds that the botanical artist will adhere to approved and recognized processes and procedures. Artists will consent to follow the guidelines that the host institution (botanic garden, conservation area, etc.), or program director (botanical curator, botanist, conservation scientist, etc.) may impose upon them.

Importantly, such a set of protocols serves to recognize the need to cultivate partnerships with botanists, conservation scientists, environmentalists and their parent organizations. It further demonstrates a desire to embrace and share their concern for the common, rare and endangered native plant species.

Articles:

The American Society of Botanical Artists recognizes the growing interest by members of the Society in the common, rare and endangered native flora and has implemented the following set of protocols/jurisdictions. They aim to establish a "best practices" in situ procedure that serve well the interests of conservation science, botany and botanical art.

1. If a plant is growing in a botanic garden or conservation area, and I wish to observe that plant, and possibly bring equipment necessary to the practice of my art, I am willing to place myself under the complete guidance of the person or persons responsible for stewardship of the collection or conservation area, and will willingly follow all restrictions and requirements that may be imposed upon me.

2. If I am directed to a plant growing in the wild I will not dig it up, handle, touch, or pick any part of the species but only take notes, photograph, sketch or paint it in situ. Please note: In exceptional cases harvesting a plant (minus roots) for identification or for microscopic drawing studies could be allowed but only at the discretion of the land owner/conservation manager or curator.

3. I will take the utmost care in treading in the area of common, rare and endangered plants so there is no accidental damage to newly sprouted seedlings or the roots of the plants or to the associated ecosystem. If I use a sketching stool or other equipment, such as a tripod, I will take care to minimize any disturbance to the habitat.

4. I recognize that many rare species grow in sensitive areas, either as the habitat itself is rare or that area has had minimal disturbance. These areas may contain more than one rare or endangered species. I will try to minimize my impact and footprint as a result of my studies and minimize any disturbance to the site.

5. If I observe any displacement of natural features I will inform my contact.

6. If I am led to a protected area I will not divulge the location to anyone. If someone requests the location, I will refer them to the person or organization that led me to the site.

Addendum:

It should be noted that while the foregoing specifically relates to protocols for botanical artists working with native flora in the field (in situ) such basic protocols and commitments also pertain to the practice of working with all forms of plant life.

As a member of the American Society of Botanical Artists I understand and agree to comply with the above stated procols and commitments.

Name.....

Address:.....

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Telephone:.....*E-mail*.....

Signed.....*Date*.....

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