



THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

For Immediate Release  
December 19, 2014

## ***ART OF THE HEIRLOOM***

**Works of Art Commissioned by the Hudson Valley Seed Library  
For Its Annual Seed Pack Collection Featured in NYBG Exhibition**

**Art and Garden Intersect to Tell Cultural Stories of Heirloom Varieties**

**Exhibition Runs through Monday, January 19, 2015**



*Original artwork for Radiant Radish Blend seed pack, Hudson Valley Seed Library, art by Elizabeth St. Hilaire Nelson*

Celebrating a delightful intersection of art and garden, *Art of the Heirloom* at The New York Botanical Garden illustrates the stories and cultural history behind some of the heirloom vegetables, flowers, and herbs offered by the Hudson Valley Seed Library in Accord, New York.

The exhibition, which opened in the Botanical Garden's Ross Gallery on November 15, 2014, and runs through January 19, 2015, features 59 artworks commissioned by the Seed Library over the years for its seed packs. *Art of the Heirloom* includes the 16 selections for its 2015 collection, chosen from more than 400 submissions.

Featured artists range from the up-and-coming to the world-renowned, working in watercolor, collage, oil, letterpress, embroidery, and even stained-glass.

### **Drawing Inspiration from a Seed's Cultural Story**

The Hudson Valley Seed Library believes that every seed represents a cultural story—the long history of those who selected the plants that the seeds came from, tended them to keep them alive, and passed on their seeds. To help tell these fertile and creative stories, the Seed Library—which produces hundreds of pounds of seed each year on its own small farm—commissions original art for a select number of unique seed packs in its annual catalog.

Among the new works for the 2015 collection, artist Jenny Lee Fowler used cut paper for the *Chervil* seed pack, creating a work that depicts the anise-scented herb and features the silhouette of a woman holding a pair of large shears, ready to snip the plants towering over her—or perhaps create a cut-paper work of art.

– more –

In Daniel Baxter's ink-on-paper work for the *Blue Jade Sweet Corn* seed pack, an ear of blue corn appears to be growing out of a map of Mexico, where the corn comes from.



Original artwork for *Blue Jade Sweet Corn* seed pack, Hudson Valley Seed Library, art by Daniel Baxter

Other artists in the 2015 collection, their seed pack, and medium, are: Lynne Bittner (*Greek Oregano*, archival inkjet print), Nancy Blum (*Milkweed*, ink and paint on paper), Lillian Edwards (*Purple Tomatillo*, ink and gesso on banana paper), Joel Floyd (*Moss Curled Parsley*, watercolor on paper), Melissa Garden (*Salad Savor: Arugula, Baby Bok Choy, Red Streaks Mizuna, Tokyo Bekana, Yukina Savoy*, gouache on paper), Sarah Jacoby (*Chives*, watercolor on paper), Olivia Mew (*Snapdragon Mix*, digital illustration), Elizabeth St. Hilaire Nelson (*Radiant Radish Blend*, cut paper collage, acrylic on board), Tonja Sell (*Midnight Garden Flower Mix:*

*Candytaft, White Four O'Clocks, White Cosmos, Sweet Mignonette, Bishop's Flower, Evening Scented Stock, Sensation Mixed Nicotiana*, pastel and paint on paper), Amy Valuck (*Tri-Color Bean Blend*, stained glass), Sally Vitsky (*Sea Shells Cosmos*, paper sculpture), Shu Ju Wang (*Polar Bear Zinnia*, gouache and graphite on paper), Robin Wessman (*Bridge to Paris Pepper*, oil on board), and Decue Wu (*Coral Fountain Amaranth*, digital illustration on paper).

Founder Ken Greene started the Seed Library in 2004 while working as a librarian at the Gardiner Public Library in Gardiner, New York. After four years of running the program at the library, he and partner Doug Muller launched the Hudson Valley Seed Library as a business project in 2008. To learn more about the Hudson Valley Seed Library, visit [seedlibrary.org](http://seedlibrary.org).

*Exhibitions in the Ross Gallery are made possible by the Arthur and Janet Ross Fund.*

###

The New York Botanical Garden is a museum of plants located at Bronx River Parkway (Exit 7W) and Fordham Road. It is easy to reach by Metro-North Railroad or subway. The Garden is open year-round, Tuesday through Sunday and Monday federal holidays, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The best way to enjoy the Garden is with the *All-Garden Pass*, which includes admission to the grounds as well as to seasonal gardens, exhibitions, and attractions such as the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, Everett Children's Adventure Garden, and Tram Tour. For ticket pricing, please check our Web site. For more information, please call 718.817.8700 or visit [nybg.org](http://nybg.org).

The New York Botanical Garden is located at 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10458.

The New York Botanical Garden is located on property owned in full by the City of New York, and its operation is made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. A portion of the Garden's general operating funds is provided by The New York City Council and The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The Bronx Borough President and Bronx elected representatives in the City Council and State Legislature provide leadership funding.

**Media Contact:** Stevenson Swanson at 718.817.8512; [sswanson@nybg.org](mailto:sswanson@nybg.org). Images available.