



THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

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Botanical Garden Exhibits At-Risk Plants through Botanical Art

Losing Paradise? Endangered Plants Here and Around the World
Traveling Exhibition on Display in Ross Gallery May 6–July 25, 2010

Renowned Featured Artists to Teach Botanical Art and Illustration Courses During Exhibition's Run



Green Ixia *Ixia viridiflora*,
watercolor on vellum, Jean Emmons

The New York Botanical Garden will exhibit *Losing Paradise? Endangered Plants Here and Around the World* in the Arthur and Janet Ross Gallery from Thursday, May 6, through Sunday, July 25, 2010. The traveling exhibition and accompanying exhibition catalog feature botanical artwork of at-risk plants from all six habitable continents. The culmination of a three-year project undertaken by artists from the United States and around the world, *Losing Paradise?* is curated by the American Society of Botanical Artists (ASBA) and developed in collaboration with the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History.

“Featured as part of the Garden’s Education programs, *Losing Paradise?* provides viewers with a glimpse of some of the world’s most endangered specimens and will help inform the public about plants that are disappearing every day,” said Jeff Downing, Vice President for Education at The New York Botanical Garden. “The exhibition will showcase the beauty of these endangered treasures, as well as the fine craft of botanical art.”

According to recent studies on plant endangerment, it is estimated that 20% of the world’s flora is threatened with extinction. Scientists racing to gather information on known plants and to document the estimated 50,000 plant species yet to be scientifically described, benefit from the work of botanical artists who capture the breadth of plant diversity and make audiences aware of precious dwindling species.

Losing Paradise? showcases the artwork of botanical artists from the United States, Australia, Brazil, Israel, South Korea, South Africa, and the United Kingdom—some of whom are the world’s most renowned botanical artists, while others are relative newcomers to the field. All of the artists are members of the ASBA. The exhibition catalog includes the story behind each plant’s endangerment and the method the artist took to locate and capture the specimen artistically.

About half of the plants represented in the exhibition are native to North America, and the remaining plants are from other locations around the world. Fascinating plant stories include that of the Wollemi pine, thought to be extinct for 2 million years but found in 1994 in a remote Australian canyon, and *Phragmipedium kovachii*, a stunning violet slipper orchid discovered in 2002 in the Peruvian rain forest.

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American rarities include the Midwestern lakeside daisy, with only two natural colonies remaining in the United States, the Everglades “ghost orchid,” a rare white poppy from Utah’s Mojave Desert, and California’s coastal Santa Cruz cypress, all listed as Federally Endangered or Threatened.

“Recognizing that a significant percentage of the world’s plant species will face a serious threat of extinction in the next century, The New York Botanical Garden and other research gardens around the world are partnering to generate the information needed to guide an effective conservation strategy, to protect plants where they grow naturally, to cultivate them in gardens, and to restore them to their natural habitats,” said Dr. James S. Miller, Vice President for Science at the Botanical Garden, who provided a forward to the *Losing Paradise?* exhibition catalog.

The exhibition may be viewed from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. when the Garden is open to the public and is included in the price of admission. The *Losing Paradise?* catalog is currently available for purchase at Shop in the Garden. The artwork featured in *Losing Paradise?* will be available for purchase during the exhibition. Proceeds from the sale of the artwork will benefit the Garden. [Select images](#) can be viewed in our online Media Gallery at nybg.org/media/gallery.php

***Losing Paradise?* Artists Teach Botanical Art & Illustration Classes at the Garden**

As part of the Botanical Garden’s programming for *Losing Paradise? Endangered Plants Here and Around the World*, world-renowned botanical artists featured in the exhibition will be teaching select classes in Botanical Art & Illustration, one of nine discipline areas in the Garden’s Adult Education program. **John Pastoriza-Piñol**, an award-winning botanical artist with a doctorate in botany from the University of Vigo in Spain, is coming from Australia to New York to teach a unique three-day class on illustrating tulips at the Garden’s new Midtown Education Center:

- **Master Class with John Pastoriza-Piñol: Tulips in New York**
Wednesday–Friday, May 5–7, 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
(class code: 104BIL 509)
Using hybrid tulips as references, learn the intricacies of achieving fine detail with watercolor through a variety of advanced techniques that are invaluable for contemporary botanical artists.

John Pastoriza-Piñol will also be on hand at the May 6 opening of *Losing Paradise?* in the Garden’s Arthur and Janet Ross Gallery.



Iris winogradowii,
watercolor
(Republic of Georgia)
John Pastoriza-Piñol

Winner of the Jill Smythies Award from the Linnean Society of London and the American Society of Botanical Artists’ Award for Excellence in the Service of Science, artist **Bobbi Angell** will share her scientific approach to botanical illustration in a three-day class at the Garden in June:

- **Master Class with Bobbi Angell: Drawing the Microscopic View**
Monday–Wednesday, June 14–16, 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
(class code: 104BIL 515; prerequisite is required)

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Learn to translate microscopic views into carefully rendered botanical drawings in pen and ink; work with fresh plant material to prepare cross sections and create exploded views of flowers and fruits.

Much of Bobbi Angell's work represents years of ongoing collaboration with scientists from The New York Botanical Garden. This is a rare opportunity for students to receive instruction from one of the most respected botanical illustrators in the field.

Many other artists featured in the exhibition are alumni of the Garden's Botanical Art & Illustration Certificate program, and several artists currently serve as instructors. Garden instructors whose work is featured in the exhibition will teach a series of classes during the May 6–July 25, 2010, run of *Losing Paradise?*. New classes include:

- **Techniques: Advanced Watercolor Painting with Rose Pellicano**
Five Tuesdays, May 18–June 15, 1–4 p.m. (class code: 104BIL 351; prerequisite is required), at the Garden's new Midtown Education Center in Manhattan.
- **Drawing Roses in the Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden with Carol Woodin**
Saturday & Sunday, June 19 & 20, 10:30 a.m.–4 p.m. (class code: 104BIL 352)
- **Drawing Vegetables in the Ruth Rea Howell Family Garden with Wendy Hollender**
Two Saturdays, July 17 & 24, 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. (class code: 111BIL 209)

For additional course information and to register online, please visit nybg.org/AdultEd

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Exhibitions in the Arthur and Janet Ross Gallery are made possible by support from 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 Botanical Garden is open year-round, Tuesday through Sunday and Monday federal holidays. 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 Everett Children's Adventure Garden, Rock Garden, and Tram Tour: \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors and students with ID, \$8 for children ages 2–12, children under 2 free. A *Grounds-Only Pass* is available: \$6 for adults, \$5 for adult Bronx Residents; \$3 for seniors, \$2 for students with ID, \$1 for children ages 2–12, children under 2 are free. Grounds-only admission is free all day on Wednesdays and from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturdays. For more information, please call 718.817.8700 or visit www.nybg.org Read the Botanical Garden's popular blog, Plant Talk: Inside The New York Botanical Garden at nybg.org/wordpress

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.

The American Society of Botanical Artists (ASBA) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting public awareness of contemporary botanical art, to honoring its traditions, and to furthering its development. Founded in 1994 with the mission of promoting public awareness of contemporary botanical art and its traditions, ASBA is a non-profit corporation with nearly 1,200 members across the US and in 24 other countries. Its membership includes artists, illustrators, collectors, botanists, botanical gardens and museums. The ASBA's offices are now headquartered at The New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY. For further information contact Robin Jess, Executive Director at asba@aol.com or visit AmSocBotArtists.org

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