



THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

For Immediate Release

April 7, 2014

WEIRD, WILD, & WONDERFUL

**Juried Exhibition at The New York Botanical Garden
Features Artists' Renderings of Botanical Oddities and Curiosities**

Unconventional Plant Subjects Give Twist to Botanical Art

Saturday, April 19 through Sunday, September 21, 2014

The New York Botanical Garden celebrates the eccentric beauty of the plant kingdom's most bizarre specimens with the contemporary botanical art exhibition *Weird, Wild, & Wonderful* in the Ross Gallery, April 19 through September 21, 2014. Presented in conjunction with and curated by the American Society of Botanical Artists (ASBA), 47 contemporary drawn and painted works from 46 artists showcase a wide array of weird, wild, and wonderful flora.



***Solanum lycopersicum*, heirloom tomato
Watercolor on paper, © Asuka Hishiki**

and many others. Media included are watercolor, oil, colored pencil, tempera, graphite, gouache, acrylic, aquatint etching, and pen and ink.

Botanical artists have traditionally depicted conventionally beautiful plants, such as orchids, irises, and others known to be pleasant to view. *Weird, Wild, & Wonderful* features plants not always thought of as beautiful but rather eccentric, intriguing, and mysterious. Botanical specimens represented in the exhibition include Buddha's hand (*Citrus medica*); shield fern (*Polystichum* sp.); wasabi (*Eutrema japonica*); heirloom tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*); violet hedgehog mushroom (*Sarcodon fuscoindicum*); Dog turd fungus with pill bug (*Pisolithus tinctorius* & *Armadillidium vulgare*); Romanesco cauliflower (*Brassica oleracea*);

Weird, Wild, & Wonderful is the second New York Botanical Garden triennial exhibition with the American Society of Botanical Artists. The first, titled *Green Currency: Plants in the Economy*, was on display in 2011 at the Botanical Garden.

Nearly 240 entries were received for *Weird, Wild, & Wonderful*, and the artists included in the exhibition are from the United States, Australia, Canada, India, Japan, and the United Kingdom.

– more –

The selection jury consisted of Lugene Bruno, Curator of Art at the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation; Jean Emmons, award-winning botanical artist; and Marc Hachadourian, Manager of the Nolen Greenhouses for Living Collections at The New York Botanical Garden.

Visitors to the exhibition can listen to an audio tour in which the artists vividly discuss their subjects, inspirations, work methods, and personal stories of artistic and botanical discovery. Additionally, a 76-page color exhibition catalog will be available for purchase at Shop in the Garden.

“Violet hedgehog mushroom is not a common species, and I was thrilled to find it in an area of coastal live oaks in the Santa Cruz Mountains,” said Lucy Martin of *Sarcodon fuscoindicum*. “I love hedgehog mushrooms for their fascinating structure: they have tiny spines under the cap, instead of gills—hence the name. This species has a gorgeous deep-violet color, ranging to brown-black on the rough, shingled cap to gray-lavender on the spines. The color and the complex structure presented me with an irresistible challenge.”



***Sarcodon fuscoindicum*, violet hedgehog mushroom
Gouache and watercolor on paper, © Lucy Martin**

“This plant is full of contradictions,” said Dolores R. Santoliquido of *Sarracenia purpurea*, the purple pitcher plant that she drew. “Its flower is a little umbrella that has an under-hanging fringe of delicate, droopy puppy ear-shaped petals that blow in the slightest spring breeze. Its color is subtle and alluring, transitioning from a pale creamy-yellow to a luscious, light, lipstick red...Its leaves look completely alien, wildly and intensely maroon-colored varicose veins over spring green.”

Weird, Wild, & Wonderful is on display in the Ross Gallery at The New York Botanical Garden and is included in the price of admission to the Botanical Garden.

About American Society of Botanical Artists (ASBA)

ASBA is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting public awareness of contemporary botanical art, to honoring its traditions and to furthering its development. In its 20th year, ASBA has 1,300 members from over 20 countries around the world. For more information, visit ASBA-art.org.

About NYBG’s Botanical Art Certificate Program

The New York Botanical Garden offered North America’s first formal botanical art certification program, and has remained a leader in the discipline for three decades. A well-rounded array of courses in the classroom and the Garden grounds can be enjoyed singly, just for fun, or lead to a Certificate. To learn more about the Garden’s Botanical Art Certificate Program or to register for classes, visit nybg.org/AdultEd.

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

Mobile Media sponsored by Bloomberg

###

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.

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.

Contact: Gayle Snible 718.817.8637/8616; gsnible@nybg.org. **Images available.**