



THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

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The New York Botanical Garden Exhibits Largest American Collection of Contemporary Botanical Art

Botanicals: Environmental Expressions in Art, The Alisa and Isaac M. Sutton Collection
on View in Ross Gallery September 4, 2010 – January 9, 2011

The New York Botanical Garden will exhibit *Botanicals: Environmental Expressions in Art, The Alisa and Isaac M. Sutton Collection* in the Arthur and Janet Ross Gallery from Saturday, September 4, 2010, through Sunday, January 9, 2011. The exhibition features works from the private collection of Isaac Sutton—the largest American collection of contemporary botanical art.

Among the international artists showcased in the exhibition are instructors and alumni of the Botanical Garden's renowned Botanical Art & Illustration Certificate program. *Botanicals: Environmental Expressions in Art* documents a wide variety of plant life in aesthetically stunning fashion and comes to the Garden after a long and successful run at Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh.

“The New York Botanical Garden is delighted to host Isaac Sutton’s amazing collection of botanical artwork, as it embodies the fine craft of contemporary botanical art at its best,” said Jeff Downing, Vice President for Education at The New York Botanical Garden. “It’s only natural for the institution that has helped to train some of the world’s finest botanical artists to showcase their beautiful work.”



The Sutton Dogwood © 2001 Katie Lee,
Gouache on paper

Isaac Sutton acquired his first botanical painting in 1998, after being introduced to botanical art through *The Shirley Sherwood Collection of Contemporary Botanical Art* exhibition at the National Arts Club in New York. Struck by the unique melding of art and science represented in botanical art, Sutton began amassing a collection that would both inspire and educate viewers. The artworks featured in this particular collection are, according to Sutton, expressions of the purely aesthetic forms found in nature and a reminder that we are stewards of our natural resources for future generations. The title of the exhibition, *Botanicals: Environmental Expressions in Art*, echoes the role that the botanical artist plays in documenting rare and endangered plants as well as common plants that have a critical impact on the planet's biodiversity.

Formal botanical art originated during the Renaissance as a practical way to identify plants used for medicinal purposes, and later as a way for explorers and scientists to document plant life. Today, botanical artists strive not only to create works of great beauty, but also to render plant subjects with impeccable scientific accuracy. The Botanical Garden developed North America's first formal Certificate program in botanical art in the 1980s and offers classes for students at every level. Several paintings in the exhibition are the

work of instructors and former students in the Garden's program, including Karen Kluglein, Katie Lee, and Carol Woodin. Also featured are artists in the [American Society of Botanical Artists](#), now headquartered at The New York Botanical Garden.

Botanicals: Environmental Expressions in Art may be viewed in the Ross Gallery, beginning September 4, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., when the Garden is open to the public, and is included in the price of admission. As part of Botanical Art Week in New York City (Monday, September 13, through Sunday, September 19, 2010), an opening reception for the exhibition will take place at the Garden on Thursday, September 16, from 5 to 8 p.m. R.S.V.P. to 718.817.8598. The full-color illustrated exhibition catalog, produced by Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation and The Isaac C.M. Sutton 1999 Investment Trust, will be available for purchase at Shop in the Garden during the run of the exhibition.

To learn more about the Garden's Botanical Art & Illustration Certificate program or to register for classes, 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. 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 www.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.

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