

NYBG

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***Out of the Woods: Celebrating Trees in Public Gardens* Art Exhibition at The New York Botanical Garden Illuminates the Wonder of Trees**

November 18, 2017–April 22, 2018



© Esmée Winkel, *Leiden's 300-Year-Old Tulip Tree in Autumn* (2016)
Liriodendron tulipifera, Hortus Botanicus Leiden, Leiden, The Netherlands
Watercolor on paper

Bronx, NY—The New York Botanical Garden celebrates the wonder of trees with the contemporary botanical art exhibition *Out of the Woods: Celebrating Trees in Public Gardens* in the Ross Gallery, November 18, 2017 through April 22, 2018. Presented in conjunction with the American Society of Botanical Artists (ASBA), 42 contemporary drawn and painted works from 38 artists showcase a wide array of trees and the ways they are seen.

Botanical art possesses a unique power among fine art forms to educate about plants and promote ecological awareness. The pieces in this exhibition are beautiful, but their beauty resonates for much longer than the time spent looking at them. The artistry with which each specimen is rendered inspires viewers to take greater notice of the awe-inspiring qualities of the trees around them. A hawthorn or magnolia might draw attention when in flower, but the botanical artist sees more: a gnarled root, the rainbow hues of lichen, or the cherry-red clusters of seeds. Included in the exhibition are works depicting several trees found at NYBG and created by instructors in NYBG's Botanical Art & Illustration Certificate Program: Ingrid Finnan's Northern Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*) and Snake Branch Spruce (*Picea abies* 'Virgata'); Betsy Rogers-Knox's Goldenrain Tree (*Koelreuteria paniculata*); and Carol Woodin's Yellow Magnolia (*Magnolia* 'Elizabeth'). Media include watercolor, oil, graphite, colored pencil, and ink.

Out of the Woods: Celebrating Trees in Public Gardens is the third 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. The second, titled *Weird, Wild & Wonderful* was on view in 2014 at the Garden.

More than 200 entries were received for *Out of the Woods*, and countries where the artists selected for the exhibition are from include Australia, Brazil, Canada, Japan, Hong Kong, the Netherlands, United Kingdom, and the United States. Several contributors are graduates of NYBG's Botanical Art & Illustration Certificate Program.

The selection jury consisted of NYBG's Arthur Ross Vice President for Horticulture and Living Collections Todd A. Forrest, NYBG's Director of Public Engagement and Library Exhibitions Curator Joanna L. Groarke, former ASBA Executive Director Robin A. Jess, and Macklowe Gallery co-owner Barbara Macklowe. The awards jury consisted of ASBA founder Diane Bouchier, Ph.D., NYBG's Curator of Woody Plants and Landscape Project Manager Deanna F. Curtis, NYBG's Thomas J. Hubbard Vice President and Director of the LuEsther T. Mertz Library Susan Fraser, and NYBG Trustee and art historian Caroline A. Wamsler, Ph.D.

A 60-page color exhibition catalog is available for purchase at NYBG Shop.

"The bark is presented as a piece of abstract art—not immediately recognizable as bark," said Lizzie Sanders of Paperbark Maple (*Acer griseum*), a watercolor on paper depicting a tree from Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew in London, England. "A piece of botanical art does not have to be a simple plant centered on a sheet of white paper. It can be a complex, contemporary painting in its own right as well as illustrating some aspect of the original plant."

"The papery, geometric, lantern-shaped pods go through a fascinating series of color changes, then split open to reveal the plum-colored seeds within," said Betsy Rogers-Knox of Goldenrain Tree (*Koelreuteria paniculata*).



© Lizzie Sanders, Paperbark Maple (2014)
Acer griseum, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
London, England, Watercolor on paper



© Betsy Rogers-Knox, Goldenrain Tree (2017)
Koelreuteria paniculata, The New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY
Watercolor on paper

Out of the Woods: Celebrating Trees in Public Gardens is on display in the Ross Gallery at The New York Botanical Garden and is included in any Garden admission type. After the exhibition closes in April, it will travel to four other venues across the country, beginning with The Huntington Library, Art Collections, & Botanical Gardens in San Marino, California.

In conjunction with *Out of the Woods*, The New York Botanical Garden presents several one-day workshops dedicated to basic watercolor techniques for botanical art and illustration. Attendees of all skill levels will learn to capture the beautiful colors and unique details of different botanical subjects. On Saturday, November 18, the “Fall Leaves” workshop will focus on the most brilliant and seasonal foliage—maple, ginkgo, sassafras, or perhaps something unexpected. The “Seed Pods” workshop explores the craggy textures and desolate beauty of winter seed pods on Sunday, January 28. “Market Flowers” studies the warm tones of flowers available in corner markets, even in winter’s cold; two separate sessions are held on Sunday, February 11 and Sunday, February 25. Weekend Watercolor workshops are held from 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. at The New York Botanical Garden and are \$105/Non-Members and \$95/Members.

Students in “Tropical Foliage in the Conservatory,” held on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 13 and 14, spend two winter afternoons in the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory’s sunlit Lowland Tropical Rain Forest Gallery sketching the plants that flourish there. With instructor Wendy Hollender, participants will capture the leaves and tendrils of exotic flora from the unique vantage point of the skywalk that takes visitors into the rain forest canopy. Class is held from 2–5 p.m. and is \$269/Non-Members and \$245/Members. *Space is limited due to the size of the skywalk.*

For more additional information on these and other courses, visit nybg.org/AdultEd.

About American Society of Botanical Artists (ASBA)

ASBA is a nonprofit organization with a mission to provide a thriving, interactive community dedicated to perpetuating the tradition and contemporary practice of botanical art. For more information, visit ASBA-art.org.

About NYBG’s Botanical Art & Illustration 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. Contemporary botanical art captures the beauty of the natural world with precision, and NYBG’s extraordinary instructors share their expertise in this nurturing yet rigorous program. A well-rounded array of courses in the classroom and on the Garden grounds can be enjoyed just for fun, or lead to a Certificate, which is a prestigious indicator of mastery and accomplishment. To learn more about the Garden’s Botanical Art & Illustration Certificate Program or to register for classes, visit nybg.org/AdultEd.

*Exhibitions in the Arthur and Janet Ross Gallery are made possible
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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, bus, 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 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, 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.

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Images available.