



Botanical ARTicles

A Publication of the Botanical Artists of Canada

Membership in Botanical Artists of Canada grows to more than 50

Since the formation of Botanical Artists of Canada in March, 2001, and despite the summer with its great painting weather, the association is off to a great start. The coordinating group has met and taken a number of decisions: Firstly, after much research on the pros and cons and checking on other similar organizations, we decided that we would not incorporate at this stage, rather we would wait to see how the group grows.

Secondly, we have opened a bank account at Scotiabank and have established standard and sound financial practices around the number of signatories to the account.

Thirdly, the coordinating group has drafted a constitution which will be presented to members for ratification at the first annual general meeting in mid 2002. In the meantime, the coordinating group will use it as the guideline for operation. The first membership drive resulted in over 50 members signing on.

While all this background activity was going on, the first newsletter was published. This is the second one, and from now on newsletters will be sent to members only. With computer technology being embraced at different speeds among members, we have had to scale back the newsletter, cutting out photographs and other exciting but memory guzzling graphics, to enable most of you to download it on e-mail. Members without e-mails are mailed hardcopy of the newsletter, so if you still cannot receive it, please e-mail bac@gto.net and we'll put you on the hard copy list (reluctantly, because it does cost a whole lot more than e-mail).

The summer was a time for getting back into painting and there were many interesting courses. Celia Godkin led painting classes in Patricia Bermiller's Toronto garden, in addition to her other U of T-associated courses;. Margit Koritar taught some country courses as well as a weekend course

specializing in leaves, with many useful tips about getting the centre vein in the right position, and making 'butterfly' strokes to get the wash down seamlessly. Pamela Stagg did two five day workshops at the Civic Garden Centre, constantly coaching the participants through each millimetre of painting.

The results of all this endeavour will hopefully be seen at both the exhibition at the Chinese Cultural Centre in September, and the juried show at the Civic Gardens Centre in October. And remember, it's not too early to be starting your masterpiece for Canada Blooms in March 2002. Margit Koritar has been formally asked by the organizers to arrange another juried exhibition, so now it's official.

As usual, we want to hear from you, so please send comments and suggestions to bac@gto.net or call one of the coordinating group members.

URGENT REMINDER: JOIN THE TORONTO 'ARTS WEEK' EXHIBITION

The Botanical Artists of Canada have been invited to show their work at the:

Chinese Cultural Centre
5183 Sheppard Ave., Upper Floor
September 21 - 30, 2001 (This is Arts Week in Toronto)

Hanging Date: Sept. 21, 6-10 PM
Opening: Sept. 22, 2:30-4:30 PM
Take Down: Sept. 30, 10-12 AM

The Chinese Cultural Centre will retain 20% of sales. We will need volunteers to sit at the show between 10AM-5PM for the duration of the show. *We realize this is last minute but it is a chance to promote our group in a new venue.* If you are interested in participating, please call or E-mail Leslie Staple as soon as possible. Leslie Staple, 416-421-5909, staple@sympatico.ca

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Current BAC Members

Ms Janyne Baby
 Ms Sheila Brown
 Ms Louise Chenier
 Ms Alice Durst
 Ms Sandra Florence
 Ms Linda Glass
 Ms Margaret Graeb
 Ms Gayle Hutchings
 Ms Jean Johnson
 Ms Winnie Larsen
 Ms Emily Luks
 Ms Karen McLean
 Ms Payge Morris
 Ms Sophie Phillips
 Ms Pamela Stagg
 Ms Hannah Starke
 Ms Darlene Sullivan
 Ms Julie Warshaw
 Ms Mary Rose Woodbrige

Ms Patricia Bermiller
 Ms Lynda Bryden
 Ms Trudi Clarkson
 Mr. John Eedy
 Ms Leslie Foster
 Ms Mara Glebovs
 Ms Mary Guest
 Ms Diana Jackson
 Ms Luisa Klopchic
 Ms Hannah Levitt
 Ms Janice Makhija
 Ms Brenda Mitchell
 Ms Marguerite Nault-Kubera
 Ms Sengmany Phommachakr
 Ms Margaret Stalker
 Ms Debbie Stephenson
 Ms Judie Thompson
 Ms Ely Whittlin
 Ms Pat Wylie

Ms Meaghan Brierly
 Ms Patricia Bustine
 Ms Dawn Dougall
 Ms Gail Finlayson
 Mr. Victor Gillett
 Ms Celia Godkin
 Ms Denise Hart
 Ms Gerry Jenkison
 Ms Margit Koritar
 Ms Peta Lomborg
 Ms Deborah Marrison
 Ms Jan Mok
 Ms Carol Paton
 Mr. Akber Remu
 Ms Margaret Stamp
 Ms Leslie Staple
 Ms Ann Stirling
 Ms Margaret Vipond
 Ms Patricia Williams



MASTER CLASSES IN THE SONORA DESERT

- Emily Luks

In the spring of 2000, I received an invitation from the School of Natural History Art of the Sonora Desert Museum in Tucson, Arizona, to attend in 2001, their first annual event of instruction in drawing and painting of the natural history of the Sonora Desert by master artist Katie Lee.

Neither Margit Koritar nor I could resist the opportunity to participate in a five-day intensive workshop, exploring the natural history of the area, the museum, its botanical gardens and zoo while being tutored by botanists and internationally renowned artists.

The desert wildflowers bloom only once a year and are followed by the cacti. Margit and I booked our trip to take advantage of this and for four days we explored and sketched around Tucson. On Monday we joined the other eager artists at the Museum. The studio setting was to dream for! Individual drawing tables, lights, magnifying glasses on stands, microscopes, etc. Biologists and botanists lectured on the ecosystem of the desert. Specimens, both animals and plants, were provided for our viewing and sketching. Katie Lee's enthusiastic and energetic instruction was comprehensive and saturated with information and techniques. By the end of the day both instructor and students were exhausted.

It was my first Master Class with Katie Lee, as well as my first experience with a level of professionalism I have been craving in my passion for drawing, painting and sharing. It is said that one should practice and exercise discipline to pursue and achieve excellence in life. In pursuing our passions we should listen to ourselves, explore the ways of making our lives more meaningful, pass our knowledge on to others, not just with words but with our heart, only then, will we encounter the force field of our soul. In this class I experienced all of this.

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Talk to the Editor

Please submit any suggestions/articles/questions you may have concerning the newsletter to bac@gto.net. The BAC Coordinating Group will review your submissions for inclusion in future issues of the newsletter.

Useful websites for Botanical Artists

Hunt Institute

<http://Huntbot.andrew.cmu.edu/ASBA/ASBotArtists.html>

Guild of Natural Science Illustrators

www.gnsi.org

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

www.kew.org

Botanical Art and Illustration Courses at The New York Botanical Gardens

progcoo@nybg.org

For plant information

pltinfo@nybg.org

For free e-notes and up to date info for Education at The N.Y. Botanical Gardens

Send message to: NYBGCED-Subscribe@listbot.com

AVOID REPETITIVE STRAIN OR STRESS INJURY (RSI) – IT CAN PUT AN END TO YOUR BOTANICAL ART

What is it?

RSI is the result of any excessive repetitive upper extremity movement damaging nerves, tendons, muscles and other soft body tissues. This can happen to computer users, drapery installers, musicians, meatpackers and yes, artists.

What are the Symptoms?

Stiffness, burning, discomfort, soreness in the hands, fingers, wrists, forearms, elbows, neck or shoulders. Specific to the hands, tingling, coldness and numbness. Pain that wakes you up in the night.

How can this be prevented?

Take breaks and exercise. Learn what is comfortable for your body and what is not before you're in pain. Everyone has occasional aches and pains when we overdo activities. But if these pains don't go away in a day or two you need to see your doctor immediately.

In future issues we hope to raise your awareness to RSI by providing helpful information including exercises, how to sit properly when drawing or working at a computer, recommended reading and where to find helpful information on the web. Our hope is that you will continue to enjoy botanical art and other activities and avoid partial or total disability and chronic pain due to Repetitive Strain Injury.

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Callendar of Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Details	Contact
Sept 22 - 30	Exhibition	Chinese Cultural Centre (See article elsewhere in this newsletter.)	Leslie Staple, staple@sympatico.ca (416) 421-5909
Sept 29 – 30	Botany for Artists with Celia Godkin	9.30 – 5 BAC members \$120 Others: \$135	Celia Godkin celia.godkin@utoronto.ca (416) 591-0491
Oct. 16-29, 2001	Juried exhibition.	The Link Gallery, Civic Garden Centre. All members are encouraged to come out and see the show.	Leslie Staple (See above)
Nov	Video workshop	To be announced.	Emily Luks saem@home.com (416) 441-1992
Nov 23	Deadline for submissions to Winter newsletter and quarterly mailing information.		Payge Morris bac@gto.net (416) 247-3438
Dec. 1 – 2, 2001	Introduction to Water Mixable Oil Colour and Oil Techniques. Instructor: Douglas Purdon. Douglas Purdon is the Educational Advisor for Canada for Winsor & Newton art supplies and author of the best-selling "Colour Secrets for Glowing Oil Paintings".	At Emily Luks, 8 Wilket Rd., Toronto, Ontario, M2L 1N6, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. \$160 (includes instruction, materials, lunch for 2 days). Introduction to water mixable oil colours – a genuine oil colour which can be thinned with water and cleaned with soap and water. Even though we will be using environmentally friendly water mixable oil colours instruction will be applicable to oil techniques in general. The workshop is intended for not only those who wish to explore water mixable oils but for those interested in exploring and leaning new techniques in oils. All materials and supplies will be provided (oil, canvas board, brushes, etc.).	Registration: Please make cheques payable to Emily Luks and send to the address noted to the left. Cancellation refund: \$100.
Dec. 15	Winter newsletter published		
January 4	Canada Blooms slides due		Margit Koritar
January	Critique evening	To be announced	
Feb. 14	Orchid Show	Civic Garden Centre	
Mar. 13 - 17	Canada Blooms	Juried show	Margit Koritar
REGULAR EVENTS			
Sept. 20 Oct. 25 Nov. 22	Monthly painting sessions (Thursdays) for the year 2001	9 – 5, Civic Garden Centre, Studio 3 777 Lawrence Ave. E. \$50 for 10. Anyone interested in attending these sessions in 2002, should call Margit before December 1, 2001	Margit Koritar margit13@home.com (416) 425-5136

*Please note: any phone numbers published in this document should be used with discretion as all members are volunteers and have other commitments.