



Botanical ARTicles

A Publication of the Botanical Artists of Canada

BAC is Blooming

Even after an extremely mild winter, the highlight of the March calendar for plant and garden enthusiasts is the **Canada Blooms** garden show held annually in Toronto. People come from all over Canada to see the display gardens, enjoy the scent of spring flowers, sell their wares, and now, for the second time, to view the annual juried art exhibition featuring some of Canada's leading botanical artists. BAC members are well represented in the line up this year. Thanks to Margit Koritar who has again motivated, organized and arranged to ensure the exhibition does us all proud.

It is almost a year since the initial formation meeting of BAC. The first **Annual General Meeting** will take place on Wednesday June 13 in the evening at the Civic Gardens Centre. A critique session will follow the formal meeting, where the interim steering group will present a draft constitution for ratification and elections will be held for next year's office bearers. This is your opportunity to participate in decision making about your organization. One of the discussions on the table is whether or not BAC members are required to attend / participate in at least three activities each year to keep their membership valid. Come and have your say.

BAC has also arranged a number of exciting opportunities for increasing your botanical art knowledge and skills. These include **workshops** on framing and on specific plant families. Check out the calendar for details.

A BAC Workshop

Framing Workshop – Instructor Nola Perzow

Learn how to choose the best frames and mats to enhance your botanical creations.

Location: World of Picture Frames 133 Cartwright Avenue, Toronto ON, M6A 1V4

Date: **May 14, 2002.** *Time:* 6:45 PM

Materials required: Portable stools or folding chairs. Please bring your own, if you can.

Maximum number of participants: 30

Cost: \$10 per participant

Registration: cheque payable to BAC, c/o Ann Stirling, 570 Merton Street, Toronto ON M4S 1B3.

Registration deadline: April 15, 2002 (50% refund for cancellations before April 30; no refund after April 30).

For further information: Ann Stirling - Phone: 416-489-9797

Refreshments will be provided.



Botanical ARTicles

A Publication of the Botanical Artists of Canada



Copyright: your right to your work

By Pamela Stagg

From time to time, people question me about the © beside my signature. “Doesn’t it seem rather ... well, commercial ... on a work of art?” they ask, as if it were a question in bad taste.

That © may seem commercial to some people, but to me, it says I own the work and it can’t be used without my permission.

Copyright gives us control of our paintings.

Needless to say, it’s very important for artists – as well as writers, musicians, composers, journalists and publishers. Yet few people really understand their rights under copyright law.

Copyright is governed by the Berne Convention, signed by Canada, the United States and many countries of the world. Here are some of the key provisions:

1. **The creator of a work owns the copyright to all his/her published work, including the right to** authorize any or all make reproductions, adaptations and alterations, and moral rights to ensure the integrity of the work.

“Moral rights” allow the creator to prohibit alterations which he/she feels might distort the work and which would prejudice the creator’s reputation. In other words, if you are Michael Snow and you sculpted Canada Geese for the Eaton Centre, you have the right to prevent the Eaton Centre from tying red bows around their necks at Christmas, on the basis that it trivializes your work.

2. **Protected works include all forms of ‘literary and artistic works’.**
3. **The creator of a work doesn’t have to do anything to establish copyright.** It’s automatic in Canada. However, the little © shows that you do take steps to enforce your ownership, which can be important if anyone makes unauthorized copies and you have to take legal action.
4. **Your copyright is protected in all countries which have signed the Berne Convention.** Countries which have not signed include Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Singapore.
5. **Copyright covers almost all forms of reproduction and transmission:** wireless and wire transmission, printing, music and dance performance, internet ...you name it. The bad news is that when work is appropriated over the internet, it’s virtually impossible to prosecute the offenders. So take other steps to prevent your work on the net: use low-res scans, put a banner with “sample” or your name across the middle, protect your website with a password – or simply keep your work off the web.
6. **Copyright is ‘layered’.** At each level of use, the original creator is protected. For example, you paint a lily, which is used in a collage, which appears on the cover of a magazine. Your rights under the Berne Convention are protected in the original work, in the collage and in the magazine cover.
7. **Copyright generally extends for the life of the creator plus 50 years.** In EEC countries, it is the life of the creator plus 70 years. For news photography and personal snapshots (but not fine art photography), the copyright is only 25 years. Copyright begins the day a work is first exhibited or published. The place where it is first exhibited governs the length of the copyright. For instance, a work first shown in England would have a copyright for the painter’s life plus 70 years. If it had been first shown in Canada, copyright would be the life of the painter plus 50 years.

Botanical ARTicles

A Publication of the Botanical Artists of Canada

8. **Exceptions to the copyright law are works seen and heard in connection with current events and some broadcast works.** In other words, if your painting made the news and appeared in Macleans, you would not have copyright control of the photograph of your painting which appeared in the magazine.

Canada signed the Berne convention in 1928 and the Vatican in 1935. The United States, one of the latest signatories, joined in 1989, significantly later than Fiji (1971), Lebanon (1947) and Brazil (1922).

If you are selling paintings, you own the reproduction rights, even after the works are sold, and your invoice should remind the purchaser of that fact -- even sophisticated collectors don't always understand copyright.

If you are selling reproduction rights to a publisher, make sure your contract specifies: the geographic area covered by the contract, the types of publication(s) or media, the number of uses (i.e., one-time publication), the duration of the copyright contract and, if appropriate, issues like the right to alter the work. It is useful (legally) for your invoice to say that you retain reproduction rights until the publisher has paid you in full.

Botanical Art flourishes at Canada Blooms March 13 to 17

By Margit Koritar

The Board of Directors of Canada Blooms has agreed again to feature botanical art at the 2002 Canada Blooms show from March 13 to 17. This juried show is a national forum to promote public awareness of botanical art as expressed by Canadian artists. It also provides Canadian botanical artists with a unique venue to display recent works, to make new friends, meet colleagues and share experiences. Last year we had over 5,000 people from all over Canada viewing the paintings. People were very impressed with the beautiful artwork and admired the talent and workmanship. This year sixteen artists from British Columbia to Newfoundland have submitted 41 paintings. The participating artists are: Joyce Cho, Mary Comber Miles, John Eedy, Margaret Graeb, Joanna Hadfield, Denise Hart, Gayle Hutchings, Gerry Jenkison, Margit Koritar, Emily Luks, Bohdanna Sofia Monton, Carol Paton, Denise Pelletier, Pamela Stagg, Leslie Staple, and Cathryn Wood.

Because this exhibit is also intended to encourage the pursuit of excellence in botanical art, both for the budding and blooming professional, any work that was judged to be "on the edge" of selection was included.

Selection criteria were scientific accuracy, aesthetically pleasing and craftsmanship. The diverse experiences and training of the jurors contributed to choices of artwork creating a successful representation

of contemporary botanical art in Canada and an interesting show. Jurors were: Robin Jess, Dick Rauh and Louisa Tine.

Workshop by leading international artist

In order to keep the momentum going, renowned botanical illustrator, Robin A. Jess, will teach the special watercolor techniques used in traditional botanical illustration. (See calendar for details.) As a focus for specific learning Robin will critique the slides submitted for Canada Blooms. The particular requirements and issues of successful botanical art - subject matter, presentation and composition - will be discussed.

Robin was the first coordinator of the New York Botanical Garden's Botanical Illustration Certificate Program in their Education Department. She also gives lectures to Garden Clubs on Plant Identification and her special interest, the New Jersey Pine Barrens. Robin is currently on the Board of Directors of the American Society of Botanical Artists and a member of the Guild of Natural Science Illustrators.

In 1992, Robin created a series of forty watercolor illustrations of New Jersey Pine Barrens flora for the Pinelands Preservation Alliance. This exhibition has toured New Jersey's major museums including The Newark Museum, The Noyes Museum, The State Museum in Trenton and the Liberty Science Center.

Botanical ARTicles

A Publication of the Botanical Artists of Canada

2002 Event Calendar

Date	Event	Details	Contact
Mar. 13 - 17	Canada Blooms	Juried show.	Margit Koritar (see below)
Mar. 16 - 17	Workshop "Botanical Illustration - Spring in Canada" SOLD OUT People who are interested may go on the waiting list.	Civic Garden Centre. Robin A. Jess, juror for Canada Blooms and renowned botanical illustrator will teach the special watercolor techniques used in traditional botanical illustration.	\$215 non-refundable payable upon registration to Margit Koritar, 10 Maple Tree Cres., RR1, Fraserville, ON K0L 1V0, 705-944-5695, margit@nexicom.net .
April 27 - 28	Advanced drawing refresher with Celia Godkin	\$135. See attached information and registration form.	Celia Godkin (416) 591-0491
May 14	Framing Workshop Lecturer: Nola Perzow	\$10. See information on page 1 of BAC Newsletter Spring 2002.	Ann Stirling (416) 489-9797
May & June	Margit Koritar Exhibit	Rosedale United Church, 159 Roxborough Drive, Toronto. Monday to Friday, 9 - 5.	Margit Koritar (see above)
May 30,31, June 1	" Origins in your garden" private exhibition	Lynda Bryden, Hannah Levitt, Peta Lomborg, Emily Luks, Akber Remu, Special guests: Gerry Jenkison and from Brazil, Patricia Villela	Emily Luks (416) 441-1992
June 13	BAC AGM and critique session	Civic Garden Centre	Notice to be mailed
June 24 - 28 and July 8 - 12	Painting in a summer garden with Celia Godkin	\$175. See attached information and registration form.	Celia Godkin (416) 591-0491
July 13	Plant Families Workshop Lecturer, Richard Dickinson of the University of Toronto. This workshop is intended for those interested in learning more about the plants they paint. This is a seminar, not a painting session.	Civic Garden Centre, 9 AM to 3 PM, to be held in the Administration Foyer. Plant families to be discussed: Fabaceae, Ranunculaceae, Papaveraceae, Orchidaceae, Commelinaceae, Asteraceae and Cactaceae. Min. 10, max. 25 participants. Fee \$35. Bring a packed lunch. <i>If you are interested in a particular flower from a particular plant family i.e., Sweet Pea, Fabaceae →</i>	For further information contact Patricia Bermiller at 416-483-3367 patriciabml@aol.com . Cheques payable to BAC, mailed to Patricia Bermiller, 318 St. Clements Ave., Toronto M4R 1H5. Deadline June 20, no refunds. contact Patricia Bermiller by April 26, 2002.
Spring	" Order from Chaos: Linnaeus Disposes " Hunt Institute, Pittsburgh	The exhibition will emphasize the development of Linnaeus' classification scheme and his system of binomial nomenclature.	www.huntbot.andrew.cmu.edu BAC members could travel together. Volunteer to coordinate this outing. Email bac@gto.net
September	A retrospective of Anne Ophelia Todd Dowden's work coinciding with her 95th birthday. Hunt Inst. Pittsburgh	The Hunt Institute will display her sketches, finished paintings and final publications.	Hunt Institute: See above

MONTHLY PAINTING SESSIONS

Feb. 25 then last Monday of every month	Monthly Painting Sessions – Patricia Bermiller's Studio	Hours – 9 AM to 5 PM Fee \$10 per session Capacity – 8 people	If you are interested in painting once a month at a studio with other botanical artists. Contact Patricia Bermiller at 416-483-3367 or Deborah Marrison at 416-221-5849.
---	---	---	--

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.

ADVANCED DRAWING REFRESHER

A weekend workshop with Celia Godkin

April 27 & 28, 2002, 10 am - 5 pm, Location: Patricia Bermiller's studio, 318 St. Clements Ave., Toronto (located just East of Avenue Road, North of Eglinton)

Cost: \$135

Please note that Botanical Artists of Canada (BAC) are given priority over non-members.

CONTENT:

In our enthusiasm to master botanical watercolour, too often we rush through the prerequisite drawing courses and then find that, though we can paint satisfactorily, it is our drawing which is letting us down. This course is designed to help rectify that omission.

The course will start with a return to the gesture exercise; the best tool for selecting a good subject and view of it, capturing the big shapes, understanding the subject, seeing the sequence of development and grid patterns, and as a means of planning your composition. Then we'll focus in on the details; how to convey the thickness of a leaf, tackle ambiguous lines, repair damage, enhance the line. Shells and pinecones will be provided and you are encouraged to bring any botanical specimens which you find difficult to draw.

SUPPLIES:

Pencils - H, HB; erasers - kneaded and plastic; pencil sharpener; drawing paper and tracing paper; magnifying lens; dividers. OPTIONAL: Colour pencils

Bring a packed lunch for yourself; light refreshments will be provided.

QUESTIONS? Call Celia at (416) 591-0491

TO REGISTER: send a cheque for \$135, made out to Celia Godkin, to 411 - 680 Queen's Quay West, Toronto M5V 2Y9, together with the form below:



PLEASE REGISTER ME FOR THE ADVANCED DRAWING REFRESHER

NAME TELEPHONE

E - MAIL FAX

STREET ADDRESS

CITY POST CODE

PAINTING IN A SUMMER GARDEN 2002 with Celia Godkin and friends

Patricia Bermiller's garden

Session A: June 24 – 28, Session B: July 8 – 12 (Both sessions 9:30 am – 12:30 pm)

To enroll, please deliver the attached registration form accompanied by \$175 for one week or \$330 for two weeks; check payable to: Celia Godkin, 680 Queen's Quay West, Unit 411, Toronto, ON. M5V 2Y9

Space is limited and you will be registered on receipt of cheque. The course fee is non-refundable within ten days of your course, unless we can fill your space with someone from the waiting list, in which case \$160 per week will be refunded. Should you have any questions, please call Celia (416) 591-0491. For last minute change of plans, call Patricia (416) 483-3367

Supplies Checklist

Watercolour supplies as for botanical painting plus veridian and/or Winsor green. For landscapes (optional) a large pallet e.g. the Pike ~ available from Curry's, a #14 round e.g. Loew-Cornell ~ available from Toose and a flat watercolour brush 1 - 1.5 inches in width. Sunhat and sunscreen.

Directions

St. Clements runs from Bathurst to Yonge, six blocks north of Eglinton. Patricia's house is on the north side, just a few houses east of Avenue Road. Travelling by TTC: take the # 62 Avenue Road North bus from Eglinton station; St. Clements is at the second light north of Eglinton.

PAINTING IN A SUMMER GARDEN ~ ENROLLMENT FOR 2002 ~

NAME

PHONE E-MAIL

STREET ADDRESS

CITY POSTAL CODE

Please register me for the following session(s): (circle one or both)

Session A: June 24 – 28

Session B: July 8 -12

I enclose a cheque for \$175 for one session or \$330 for two, made out to Celia Godkin.

Previous watercolour courses with Celia: *Botanical watercolour* (U of T) / *Painting in a summer garden* / Other watercolour courses (please provide details).

.....
.....

Comments or requests?

.....
.....
.....
