



Botanical ARTicles

A Publication of the Botanical Artists of Canada

Life gets in the way of art!

Yes, life does seem to get in the way of art! Another year gone by, and most of us would probably say we just did not have time to do the painting, produce the artwork or attend the courses, we would have liked. Hopefully though in between all the holiday season activities, BAC members will have time to finish their Canada Blooms entries, which close January 4, 2002.

In our first six months, BAC volunteers have got the association up and running, organized three exhibitions, a number of workshops, produced and

distributed three newsletters, and are planning a busy year for 2002.

This means we need more members to volunteer to help. We need people for all portfolios and for a new one, public relations, to ensure we get publicity about our activities, especially the exhibitions. We need to popularize botanical art, and create a market for sales.

On a business note, we have 64 members, a bank balance over \$2,500, and have set a date for June 13, 2002 for our first AGM.

"WANTED – your help"

At BAC's inaugural meeting, participants suggested that every member should be expected to help out in some way a few times each year. Here's your opportunity:

<p>BAC members with experience in communications or public relations to help with publicizing exhibitions, events and building awareness of botanical art. Contact: Peta Lomberg tel: 416-778-9911, email: lomberg@pathcom.com</p>	<p>The Exhibitions team needs help with exhibition organizing, set up, openings, etc. Contact: Leslie Staple tel: 416-421-5909, email: staple@sympatico.ca</p>	<p>The Workshop and Presentations team needs additional help. Contact: Louise Chenier tel: 416-690-4698, email: louise.chenier@mah.gov.on.ca</p>
<p>The Space (locations for shows, exhibits, workshops etc.) team needs additional help. Contact: Peg Graeb tel: 416-223-0157.</p>	<p>The Member Data team needs additional help (you will need a computer). Contact: Gerry Jenkison tel: 416-925-1735, email: g.jenkison@sympatico.ca</p>	<p>The Newsletter team could also use additional help. Contact: Payge Morris tel: 416-247-3438 email: pmorris@gto.net</p>

See the attached announcements about participation in the 23rd Annual Orchid show and "Jump on Spring", both in February 2002

Exhibitions

During 2001, the Botanical Artists of Canada arranged three exhibitions of members' artwork. The first two, held at the Unitarian Church on Avenue Rd and at the Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto, resulted from invitations from people who had heard of us. Some very nice artworks were exhibited, but due to the locations of the venues, weren't actually seen by very many people.

The Coordinating Group decided that future shows should be in high traffic areas and that we need to undertake some proactive public relations and communications.

We are now looking for members who have experience in the pr area and would be prepared to volunteer. In addition, organizing and setting up exhibitions takes a lot of work, so we are looking for more volunteers who would be interested in helping with invitations, hanging of shows and receptions.

First juried show

In October we held our first juried show at the Civic Garden Centre. The jurors were Pamela Stagg, Celia Godkin and Margit Koritar. Works from Deborah Marrison, Gerry Jenkison, Margaret Graeb, Patricia Bermiller, Carol Paton, Denise Hart, Alice Durst, Pat Wylie

and Leslie Staple were accepted. Two jurors, Margit Koritar and Pamela Stagg also showed with us. We received a lot of favorable comments on the beauty and quality of the paintings, and a couple were sold.

Future plans include setting up a slide registry of members' work so we can put together shows, and possibly a traveling exhibition. We also decided to concentrate on two shows during the year, Canada Blooms in March and a major show in the Fall. So keep producing your wonderful paintings!

- Leslie Staple

Resources for Botanical Artists

(The following are recommendations by individual members but not necessarily endorsed by BAC.)

- **Aboveground Art Supplies**, 74 McCaul St., 416-591-1601 and 2 Pape Ave. (at Eastern) Warehouse www.abovegroundartsupplies.com toll free: 1-800-591-1615
- **Currys**, 490 Yonge St. (2 blocks N. of College) 416-967-6666 and 344 Queen St W. (east of Spadina) 416-260-2633, e-mail; info@currys.com toll free : 1-800-268-2969
- **GwartzmansCanvas and Art Supplies**, 448 Spadina Ave. (south of College) 416-922-5429
- **Loomis and Toles**, 130 Spadina Ave, 416-703-4748, 124 Eglinton Ave. W., 416-485-0331, 45 Milner Ave., 416-335-9700 and 1301 Alness St., 905-761-0451 www.LoomisandToles.com
- **Picasso Art and Craft Supplies Inc.**, 7388 Yonge St., 905-731-2112
- **Studio Framing and Art Supplies Inc.**, 157 Denison, Markham, 905-475-1136
- **Woolfits Art Enterprises**, 1153 Queen St. W., (east of Dufferin), 416-536-7878
- **Audio Visual Services at University Health Network**, Princess Margaret Hospital, 610 University Ave, Toronto ON, M5G 2M9 Tel: 416-946-4476 Fax: 416-946-6548. Cost of slides about \$5.00 each. Benefit – speed, price, additional range of services like CD burning; Problem - parking

In praise of Thursday painting!

When we started our 'once-a-month Botanical Artists' Thursdays' there were between 10 and 14 of us working together.

These gatherings gave me inspiration, spurred me on to try different/better work, direction, when I needed it, from other artists, endless encouragement, introductions to new friends and PEACE! (imagine – a "time out" - 6 hours without interruption, no phone, no laundry, no cooking, no kids!)

And, being at the Civic Garden Centre, a wonderful resource library, a great place to walk if I wanted a stretch and always a

parking spot. I could go on ... and on...!

Last year ill health forced me to miss several Thursdays, but the group kept in touch with 'phone calls and wonderful home painted cards. I felt missed, and drew from the strength and encouragement to return both to full health and to painting. Thank you to all of you for that help.

I was sad to learn that numbers have dwindled sufficiently for us to have to put a hold on our Thursday get-togethers. We all know how hard it is to make time for anything that we may actually enjoy – there is always so much to do in our lives

that are already far too full.

For myself, this opportunity to spend a day a month with fellow artists is a valuable and worthwhile priority. I mark it on my calendar each month and only allow genuine emergencies to prevent me from going.

Do please call and let me know if you feel as strongly as I do about our Thursday "time-outs"! Hopefully, we can pick up Thursday painting again before too long.

o Deborah Marrison



Getting serious at the Botany for Artist's workshop

28, 29, 30 ... Precisely 30 disk florets graced the cross-section of the sunflower I was painstakingly reproducing for Celia Godkin's first-ever "Botany for Artists" workshop, held in September 2001.

Celia offered a balanced workshop, combining botanical/scientific background, a historical overview of botanical illustration, and plenty of hands-on dissection and drawing practice to a small group of botanical art enthusiasts.

During the plant morphology and plant group lecture, we learned about the major plant groups, the parts of the plant and the mechanisms of pollination and seed dispersal. I was especially glad there wasn't a spot quiz at the end of the workshop, because although I learned a great deal, I quickly realized that there is so much more to discover and understand!!!

Both afternoons were devoted to learning how to dissect and draw flowers for scientific illustration.

This special approach requires a great deal of precision and is markedly different from both botanical drawing and floral drawing. We tackled a day lily, a snapdragon and a sunflower and made good use of the microscope. The value of the workshop, for me, lay in confirming the need to hone my observation skills, and to understand what it is that I am observing - how the parts of the plant come together and function in relationship to one another, and how nature has evolved to ensure its own survival. Not to mention a greater appreciation of the sheer beauty, symmetry, and cleverness of our natural environment.

Thanks, too, to Patricia Bermiller, who graciously gave us the use of her house for the occasion. Celia is planning on offering further workshops in the future - stay tuned. I believe that anyone interested in botanicals would

Master Class in Botanical Watercolour

In late October, we had the opportunity to work with one of the country's best botanical painters, Pamela Stagg. We did an extended painting of a botanical subject, with continuous individual feedback. Master classes of this type are intended for experienced botanical painters.

One participant commented: "My favourite was when Pamela would stop by and say, 'would you mind if I sat down here for a moment'. No one minded. Thank you Pamela for creating a relaxed non-threatening atmosphere where we all learned and improved.

Janyne Baby

Monthly painting sessions

If you are interested in painting once a month (Thursdays) at a studio with other botanical artists, contact Deborah Marrison, 416-221-5849 or Eli Wittlin, 416-489-8001 by January 15.

gain from it.

- Louise Chénier

The importance of slides *by Pamela Stagg*

Ask botanical painters to list their tools and they'll tell you about brushes, paper and paints. Very few will mention slides of their work. Yet 35mm slides are the best way for a show jury to see your work. They're also the best way to make BAC shows accessible and fair to artists across Canada. And they make life a lot easier for show organizers and jurors. There are three ways to get slides of your work: go to a professional photo lab; ask a freelance photographer (or a friend); make slides yourself.

Using a professional photo lab

For ease and guaranteed results, nothing beats a professional photo lab. Labs are set up to take slides of images on paper ('reflective art' or 'flat art') and they usually get it perfect every time. However, labs can be expensive. The price is calculated with a set-up charge for the first slide and a lower fee for the rest. For instance, the first slide might cost \$15, and the next 10 slides of the same painting would be \$1.25 each, an average of \$2.50 per slide.

Tips for using a professional lab:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Shop around – there can be huge price differences. ○ To find a lab, check the yellow pages for commercial and professional photo labs. Look for one that does professional photo processing (' E6') and makes copy slides. ○ Ask for a price list and find out how much time the lab needs. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Take the painting out of the frame. You can leave the mat on. ○ Show the lab what margins you want around your painting by marking them on paper. Remember to keep the proportions the same as the slide. ○ If you have a tight deadline, say so. |
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Asking a freelance photographer or friend

A freelance photographer can be a good way to go. The fee is often lower and more negotiable, the results reliable. But not every freelance photographer regularly shoots slides of fine art – and some colours are difficult to reproduce on slides.

Tips for using a freelance photographer or friend:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Make it clear what you want – the number of slides, the cropping, the deadline. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Negotiate a fee in advance. Expect to pay extra for film and processing (find out how much). ○ Expect experiments with lighting and film. |
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Making slides yourself

If you enjoy photography and have a good camera, try making your own slides. It's the most affordable way to do it. Be patient – you'll need to experiment with lighting and film. And check the cost of film and processing before you start.

Tips for doing it yourself:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Get two lights with bulbs, two light stands and film to match the lighting (i.e., daylight film for daylight bulbs, tungsten film for tungsten lights). ○ Take the painting out of the frame and lay it flat on the floor. Position a light on either side of the | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> painting at equal heights, so each light shines down at painting on a 45 degree angle. ○ Stand directly over the painting to take the shot. ○ Experiment with different of films until you get the best colour reproduction. |
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Whether you make them yourself or contract them out, you'll know your slides are right when everything is super-sharp, the colours are true and there are no over- or under-exposed spots. If you would be happy to show your slides to a jury for a major international exhibition, you've got yourself some great slides.

- *Pamela Stagg is a botanical artist, teacher and a Royal Horticultural Society Gold Medal winner.*

2002 Event Calendar

Date	Event	Details	Contact
Jan 4	2 nd Annual Canada Blooms Botanical Art Show submissions	Deadline for slide submissions.	Margit Koritar, (705) 944-5695 margit@nexicom.net
Feb 2 & 3	Advanced Drawing Refresher – Hone your drawing skills with this weekend workshop.	Patricia Bermillar's Studio, 318 St. Clements Ave. Bring our own hard to draw subjects or work from shells provided. Cost: \$135.	To register send a cheque to Celia Godkin, 411-680 Queen's Quay West, Toronto, ON M5V 2Y9. Call: (416) 591-0491
Feb	Workshop on use of digital cameras	Henry's Photography Address xxx; cost xxx Space is limited. Register by xxx	xx
Feb 15 - 17	Orchid Show	Civic Garden Centre	Margit Koritar
Mar 13 - 17	Canada Blooms	Juried show <i>Volunteers needed</i>	Margit Koritar
Feb 18- 24	"Jump on Spring" exhibition	Civic Gardens Centre	Leslie Staple, 416 421-5909 staple@sympatico.ca
April	Canada Blooms debrief and critique evening		
June 13	BAC AGM and critique session	Civic Garden Centre	

2002 Newsletter Calendar

<i>Cut-off Date for Submissions to Newsletter</i>	<i>Date Newsletter to be Mailed/Emailed</i>
February 15, 2002	March 10, 2002
May 24, 2002	June 15, 2002
August 23, 2002	September 15, 2002
November 22, 2002	December 15, 2002

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.



23rd Annual Orchid Show, Hosted by the Southern Ontario Orchid Society

February 16-17, 2002, at the Civic Garden Centre, Toronto, Canada

REQUEST FOR ORCHID ART DISPLAY

Deadline for entries: February 15, 2002

Please fill out form below.

Artists may request space for 1-4 paintings, photographs, sculptures, etc. (Display must be of orchids.) In order to exhibit, the Artist must remit 10% commission of any sale price to the Southern Ontario Orchid Society. This amount will be deducted at the time of sale. For further information please call Margit Koritar at (705) 944-5695.

Return completed form to: **Margit Koritar**
10 Maple Tree Crescent
RR 1, Fraserville, ON K0L 1V0
email: margit@nexicom.net

In submitting works to be shown with the Southern Ontario Orchid Society at the Civic Garden Centre you agree to do it at your own risk, and understand that you are entirely responsible for any insurance coverage you may require against loss or damage of the work(s) while on exhibition.

Volunteers and exhibitors have one free pass to the show. If you could volunteer as security for the art galleries it would be greatly appreciated. Please indicate the time of your availability to Margit Koritar at (416) 425-5136, or (705) 944-5695 after December 1.

Name (Please Print) _____ Signature _____
Street _____ City _____
Phone _____ Date _____

Art work entered:

1. Title _____	2. Title _____
Medium _____	Medium _____
Price _____	Price _____
3. Title _____	4. Title _____
Medium _____	Medium _____
Price _____	Price _____

Art is to be delivered to the Civic Garden Centre on Friday, February 15, 2002 between 09:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Art is to be picked up on Sunday, February 17, 2002 between 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Exhibition opportunities

Jump on Spring

The Botanical Artists of Canada have been invited to show their work at the Civic Garden Centre as part of ‘Jump On Spring ‘ from **February 18-24, 2001**.

- Works submitted must be botanical, framed and ready to hang.
- The exhibition group reserves the right to exclude any work that is not botanical.
- If you are showing at the Orchid show, your paintings can remain as part of Jump on Spring.

If you are interested in participating please contact: Leslie Staple, 17 Coxwell Blvd. Toronto, ON M4C 3G6, staple@sympatico.ca, 416 421-5909

AGREEMENT AND WAIVER FORM < Please Fill Out and Bring in At Time of Drop Off>

Artists Name _____

In order to exhibit the Artist must remit a 25% commission of any sale price to the Civic Garden Centre.

In submitting works to be shown; I agree to do so at my own risk, and understand that I am entirely responsible for any insurance coverage that I may require against loss or damage of the works that I submit.

Date _____ Signature of Artist _____

Works Submitted

1. Title _____ Price _____

Media _____ Size _____

2. Title _____ Price _____

Media _____ Size _____

3. Title _____ Price _____

Media _____ Size _____

4. Title _____ Price _____

Media _____ Size _____

The following information is to be attached to the back of every piece of Artwork

Title _____ Price _____

Artist _____ Media _____