

A Celebration of Canada's 150th Anniversary through Native and Indigenous Plants
2017 BAC Exhibit
Guidelines for Jurors and Entrants

These guidelines strive to remain consistent with previous exhibitions' jurying guidelines. Each of this year's three jurors will make their own selection list based on the criteria detailed below, assigning each work a score out of 100. The scores will be compiled and the jurors will discuss the works based on input from all, and especially with deference to botanical accuracy.

The jury will take the approach that BAC members would like their work considered on a level similar to international societies of botanical art, so jurors will look for a professional standard. In cases where a work may fall 'on the edge' of selection, we will err on the side of grace in the spirit of inclusion and encouragement of members to pursue a level of excellence in their botanical art. After the show has been installed, the jurors will tour the exhibit in person to select award winners and honourable mentions.

2017 jurors are:

Emily S Damstra is a freelance natural science illustrator who delves into the diverse subjects of zoology, botany, anthropology, ecology, and paleontology as she helps her clients communicate messages about the natural world. Her illustrations may be seen on interpretive signs in museums, zoos, and natural areas as well as in numerous books, magazines, and journals and more than two dozen coin designs for the Royal Canadian Mint. She has also participated in many North American art exhibitions. Emily works in her home studio in Guelph, Ontario. Her education includes a Master of Fine Arts degree in Science Illustration from the University of Michigan a program that enabled her to take graduate-level science courses alongside the instruction in science illustration. Emily is a member of the Guild of Natural Science Illustrations, as well the Founder and President of the Southern Ontario Nature and Science Illustrators.

Dr. Erin Zimmerman is a plant morphologist turned freelance science writer and illustrator. She specializes in the floral and vegetative morphology of the Caesalpinioideae, a large subfamily of legumes. Erin has illustrated several scientific publications, including the description of a new South American genus of legumes, *Arquita*. Her artwork was featured in the Canadian Botanical Association's 2013 juried botanical art show at Thompson Rivers University. Her work can be found online at www.DrErinZimmerman.com.

Suzanne Luke is a curator based in Waterloo Region. During her tenure at Laurier, she has articulated and implemented an innovative and diverse vision for ongoing scholarship around contemporary art activities within the university community. Recent curated exhibitions include Cubed; Scotiabank Nuit Blanche in Toronto (in collaboration with Laurier Toronto); Urban Res Studies, a solo exhibition that featured works by acclaimed Canadian artist Kent Monkman presented in conjunction with Aboriginal Education Week at Laurier; and Precarious, photographic works by distinguished artists Carole Condé + Karl Beveridge in partnership with Laurier Faculty of Communication Studies and Letters & Handshakes, Toronto.

Suzanne currently serves as on the Board of the Arts Awards Waterloo Region and continues to spearhead independent curatorial projects. Suzanne is a graduate of the Art and Art History program, University of Toronto, and Master of Arts in Communication Studies, Wilfrid Laurier University. She has been actively involved in the cultural sector, serving as a Juror Member, City of Waterloo Public Art Program (2011), Curatorial Advisor for WalterFedy (2011-12) and the Box Art Show & Sale (2010-13).

Entries will be judged according to three main criteria (each worth 30%):

1. Botanical accuracy

This is the first hurdle that all works must pass to be considered. Inaccuracies of form, scale, colour, or other qualities, or lack of enough clarity for diagnostic details to be seen, will disqualify works from consideration. All included species and other optional elements (e.g. insects, other plants or setting) will be subject to this criteria.

2. Artistry and Aesthetics

This category covers a number of aspects including subject choice, visual design & composition, values, overall colour palette, light, naturalism, dimensionality (e.g. is there a sense of dimension or does the subject look flat) and any other (optional) elements such as calligraphy, etc. Original, expressive presentation of the subject is accepted as long as these strategies do not compromise botanical accuracy.

3. Media expertise

Works should display a high level of expertise and craftsmanship in media handling to portray the subject. Faithfulness to the subject is essential to botanical art, and media skills should be up to the task of representing the subject with naturalness, accuracy, and detail.

Finally, up to 10% may be assigned to works on the basis of overall impact and artistry.

Although the jurors will keep their responses objective and their own personal tastes in check, this last criterion allows each juror a bit of personal advocacy for work that strongly 'speaks' to them. 'Botanical Art' may encompass a range of intentions, from diagnostic, scientific illustrations, through to accurate and naturalistic flower paintings. The jurors' aim is to be inclusive as long as the works achieve the main goal of botanical art, which is to demonstrate/communicate understanding of botanical structures, relationships, and/or processes, with a high level of visual aesthetics while staying true to the theme of this year's exhibition. Native or indigenous to Canada is defined as "A plant (including fungi) that originates or occurs naturally without direct or indirect human intervention within the geographical borders of Canada. We all look forward to seeing the excellent work of the BAC members and look forward to this year's continuation of a tradition of excellence in botanical art!