

Young Botanical Artist Competition



THE SHIRLEY
SHERWOOD
COLLECTION

Royal Botanic Gardens
Kew



“If you can paint one leaf, you can paint the world.” John Ruskin

The Young Botanical Artist Competition was initiated in 2022 by The Shirley Sherwood Collection, in collaboration with the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. The aim was to encourage young artists to engage with the natural world at a time when preserving our planet’s biodiversity is vital.

We asked artists from two age groups, 16-18 and 19-25, to submit two-dimensional artworks on the theme of ‘Trees’. The shortlisted artists would have their work shown in this exhibition and the winners and runners-up of each age-group would also receive cash prizes and art supplies.

Ten of the world’s most renowned botanical artists and curators donated their time to judge the entries, choosing works that represented their subject creatively, but with scientific accuracy.

When the competition closed on 30 April 2023, we had received over 1,000 entries from 77 countries. An array of different media and styles showed the unique perspective of each artist and the standard was high, proving a challenge for the judges. Today, we are proud to present this exhibition of outstanding works from some of the world’s most promising young botanical artists.



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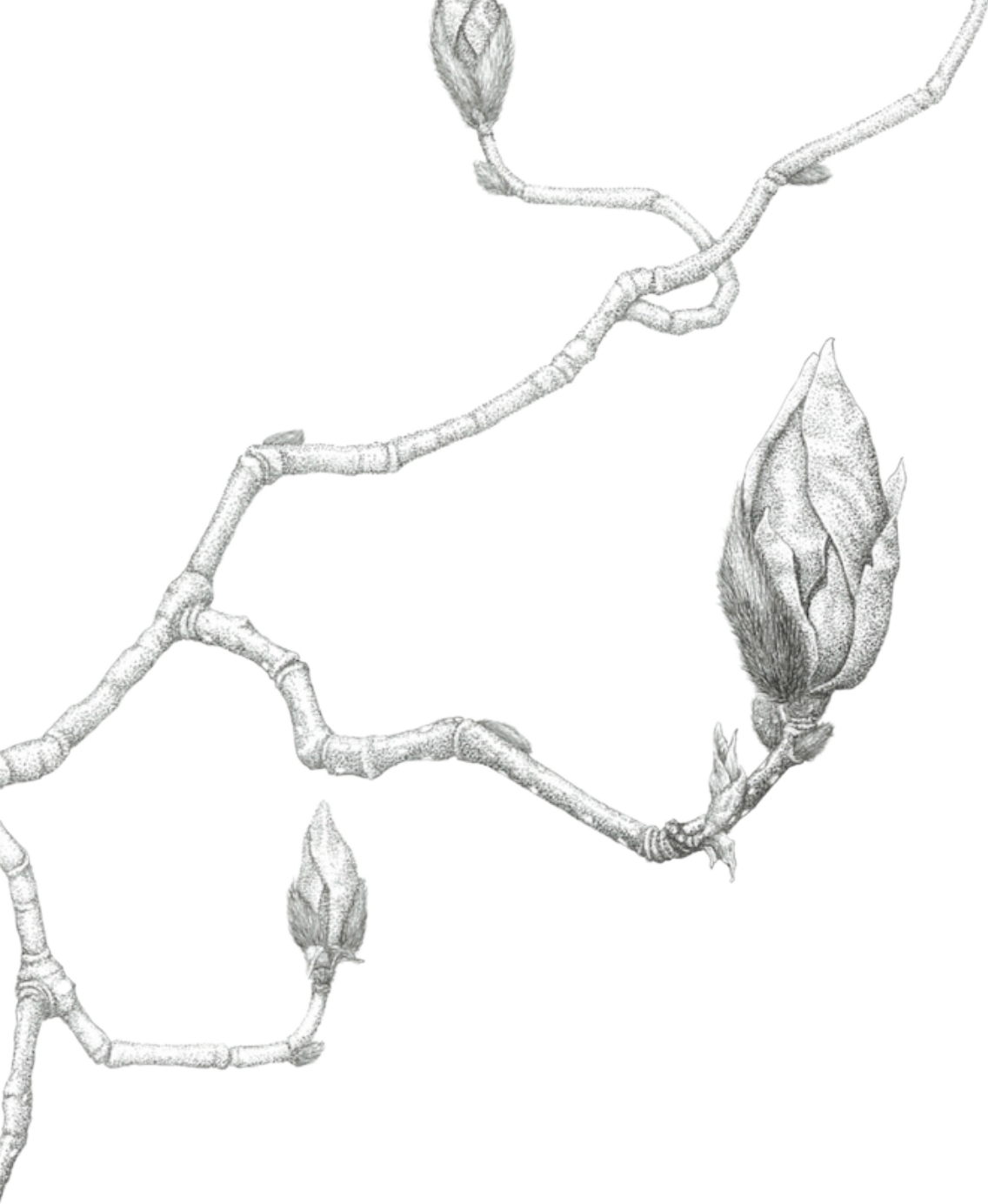
Sale of Artworks

Most of the paintings on display are up for sale. The prices will be listed in this catalogue.

If you would like to buy any of the artworks, please contact: **info@shirleysherwood.com**



Artwork: Tomoaki Asakura, 'Magnolia x soulangeana', Ink on paper



16-18 AGE CATEGORY



WINNER
16-18

Marianna Zych

Poland

Prunus serrula

Watercolour on paper

When I saw this Tibetan cherry tree (Prunus serrula) at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, it shone like a metal sculpture. Unusual, saturated colours focused the eyes of passers-by and the wavy bark and protruding elements added an even more unusual appearance. It was a difficult task to convey the brilliance, texture and unique colours of this plant but I knew I had to paint it.

Sale price: £2,000 SOLD

Voting number: 1



Was this your first piece of botanical art?

I started my adventure with botanical painting two years ago. I heard about the competition from my botanical painting teacher. I had already taken various art classes with a view to studying fine arts in the future, but when I heard about the competition, I had only taken a few classes in watercolour painting. The work that took part in the competition was my first real artwork.

What inspired you to choose your subject material?

The idea of painting bark was quite obvious to me: few people paint it and it is difficult. I really like challenges and uncommon objects to paint.

What does it mean to you to be included in this exhibition?

When I found out that my work would take part in the exhibition, I was overjoyed. This is a great achievement and honour for me. I think that, thanks to this exhibition, I will be more motivated to continue my adventure with botanical painting.

Facebook: @Marianna Zych **Instagram:** @amazing_art.mm





RUNNER-UP
16-18

Tomoaki Asakura

United States

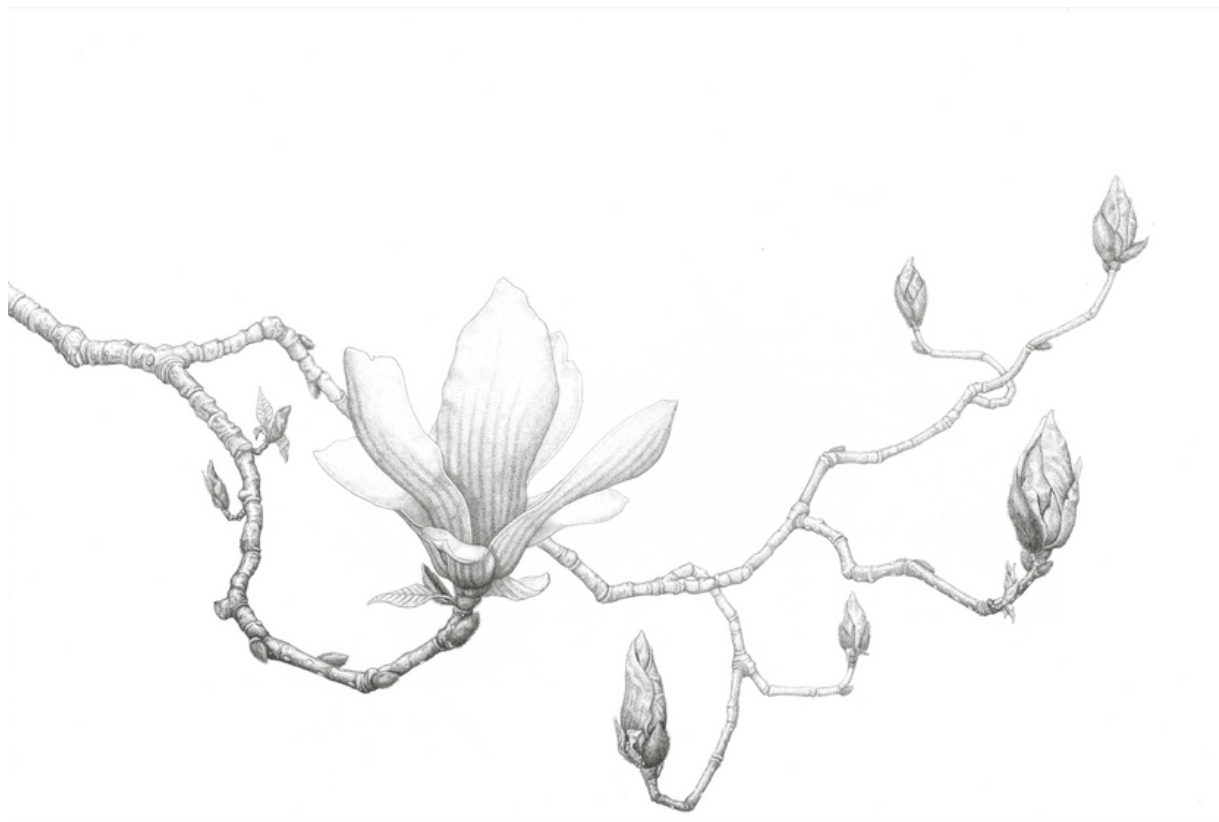
Magnolia x soulangeana

Ink on paper

*I am fascinated by magnolias for their rich, dramatic flowers and the myriad textures on a single branch, from fuzzy buds interspersed along smooth sections, to delicate shoots sprouting from bumpy knots. My aim was to convey the personality of this saucer magnolia (*Magnolia x soulangeana*) by using negative space to sculpt out its characteristic branching pattern.*

Not for sale

Voting number: 35



Was this your first piece of botanical art?

I was first introduced to botanical art in sixth grade, when I found a compilation book in my classroom. I was instantly inspired to go outside at recess, and drew a chestnut seedling - my first piece of botanical art. I began seriously pursuing this art form in eighth grade, when I self-published a book of native plant illustrations accompanied by original haiku. During this project, I got connected to a wonderful group of local botanical artists who provided mentorship; they have continued to support me on my journey since. It was one of them who encouraged me to submit my work to the YBA competition.

What inspired you to choose your subject material?

I chose the magnolia early on. Knowing magnolias have been around since the Cretaceous fills me with great awe whenever I see them in spring. Looking back, I noticed that the cover of the book which first drew me into botanical art features a magnolia!

What does it mean to you to be included in this exhibition?

I feel that being included in this exhibition is both a full circle and a leaping-off point for me. I am incredibly grateful to the judges and the gallery for recognizing and selecting my work.

Instagram: @rafawang.art





RUNNER-UP
16-18

Mai Yaguchi

Japan

Malus sieboldii 'Sakurahime'

Watercolour on paper

When I first found this bonsai, it had many unripe fruits which, when cut in half, had a refreshing apple fragrance. I started painting the shrub as its fruits gradually ripened and turned to a beautiful red colour. I used brown granular paint to express the textural bark of the trunk.

Not for sale

Voting number: 36



Born in 2006, Japanese artist, Mai Yaguchi started painting when she was in third grade after delving into the theme of 'botanical painting' for one of her summer homework assignments. It immediately caught her attention and, using how-to books from the library, she painted her first botanical artwork on Torenia. It won her an honourable mention in the Botanical Painting Competition of the National Museum of Nature and Science. Mai's paintings went on to receive a special prize for Callicarpa japonica and the award was presented by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology for Luculia pinceana. Mai remembers receiving a letter from a Japanese botanical artist active in the UK after receiving the award, who wrote, "Keep going. I look forward to meeting you someday." This letter inspired her to continue painting plants and she hopes to learn to keep plants alive after painting them.

How did you hear about the Young Botanical Artist exhibition?

It was introduced to me by a director of the Tsukuba Botanical Garden of the National Museum of Nature and Science.

Was this your first piece of botanical art?

No, the first piece I painted was when I was nine years old.

What inspired you to choose your subject material?

When I first found the bonsai, *Malus sieboldii* "Toringo crab apple", or "Miyama Kaido Sakurahime" in Japanese, it had many unripe green fruits. I thought it would look cute when the fruit ripened and turned red. I was also interested in how the branching was arranged and shaped over the years.

What does it mean to you to be included in this exhibition?

I'm self-taught, so I wanted to make sure that my drawing style was what you would call a botanical illustration. I studied botanical painting from books such as 'The Kew Book of Botanical Illustration' by Christabel King. The inclusion in the exhibition was proof that I'd succeeded, and I am glad for it.





RUNNER-UP
16-18

Silvia Rocchi

Italy

Shaded Beech

Black pen on paper

I used a BIC ballpoint pen to represent a shaded beech trunk characterized by ramifications in the bark and various cracks between the branches. It has moss at the base and some wild mushrooms growing on the sides.

Sale price: £750

Voting number: 11



How did you hear about the Young Botanical Artist exhibition?

I learned about the Young Botanical Artist Competition through my teacher, who proposed it as a project for my class.

Were you a keen artist before you learned about the competition?

Yes. I have always enjoyed art, but this competition has sparked a special interest in botanical art for me.

Was this your first piece of botanical art?

This piece is my first attempt at botanical art, and I found it a wonderful way to express my love for nature.

What inspired you to choose your subject material?

I loved its trunk and abundance of branches.

What does it mean to you to be included in this exhibition?

Being a part of this exhibition means the world to me; a dream come true. It's my artistic debut! I get to show my art and passion to a large audience. The journey, emotions and satisfactions involved in the competition journey have given me an extra push to believe in myself, in my abilities and in the possibility of making art my future career.



Anna di Somma

Italy

Adenium Obesum

Coloured pencil on paper

I have represented two forms of the desert rose (Adenium obesum), which is a popular bonsai in temperate regions. In the top left, I have shown a sapling and, in the centre, an image of the whole tree with its bulbous trunk that stores water, making it resilient. The pink flowers form in clumps at the end of the branches

Sale price: £1,200

Voting number: 19



Anna Di Somma was born in Milan, Italy in 2004. She's attending Brera Art Academy in Milan and is now starting her last year.

How did you hear about the Young Botanical Artist exhibition?

I heard about the competition through my art teacher who introduced it to my classroom.

Were you a keen artist before you learned about the competition?

Yes - I've always tried to create artwork of something that I've never seen, and I like giving life to something that was only in my mind before being created. I spend most of my time thinking about how I can express the concept that I want in the most strange and original way possible.

Was this your first piece of botanical art?

This was not the first piece of botanical art that I made, but it's the one I've spent more time on since I really loved the subject that I was drawing.

What inspired you to choose your subject material?

I chose to use pencils because I think that it's the best material to enhance the details in botanical art. They helped with very small details like the little pink petals and the creases in the wood.

What does it mean to you to be included in this exhibition?

I'm very grateful for my inclusion in this exhibition, the fact that my artwork will be seen by so many people, and the fact that it will be exposed in such an important place makes me realise how hard I can work on something if I really like what I'm doing. It really encourages me to work even harder in the future, to achieve opportunities like this again.



Lailah James

United Kingdom

Crumpled

Pen on paper

For this piece, I wanted to capture the texture of a dry leaf I had kept from the autumnal months. While I watched it dry out, I was fascinated by the creases and wrinkles it made while curling up, almost as if it were ageing. Pointillism is a time-consuming skill, but the challenge gives me huge satisfaction.

Sale price: £2,000

Voting number: 8



How did you hear about the Young Botanical Artist exhibition?

I heard about the competition at my college where they encouraged us to create a piece of work to be entered or just to go towards our coursework.

Were you a keen artist before you learned about the competition?

I have always loved art - it's my passion. When I was younger I always used to draw my favourite Disney characters and now I've completed my art GCSE and Level 3 Art and Design in college.

Was this your first piece of botanical art?

I have previously explored botanical art in secondary school as I had a huge interest in nature and this competition allowed me to reconnect with this in my new preferred style of pointillism. I picked up this style while researching artists at college after being given more independence.

What does it mean to you to be included in this exhibition?

Being included in this exhibition is a massive opportunity that I haven't got my head around yet ... it's something I'm so happy to have achieved and can't wait to see my work on display.

Instagram: @lailah.arrt

Marianna Zych

Poland

Salix Fragilis

Watercolour on paper

I knew I wanted to paint bark for this competition, and a tree in my family garden sparked my imagination, as the bark reminded me of a puzzle needing to be solved. Its sinuous lines and indentations resembled an image the tree had created, and I loved the colours of its trunk with shades of brown merging into a bluish grey.

Sale price: £1,800

Voting number: 28



Was this your first piece of botanical art?

I started my adventure with botanical painting two years ago. I heard about the competition from my botanical painting teacher. I had already taken various art classes with a view to studying fine arts in the future, but when I heard about the competition, I had only taken a few classes in watercolour painting. The work that took part in the competition was my first real artwork.

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Facebook: @Marianna Zych **Instagram:** @amazing_art.mm



Samantha Biliotaviciute

United Kingdom

A Bark in Time

Pencil on paper

My work depicts a very old tree on the verge of falling, representing both the power and vulnerability of nature. I really wanted to encapsulate the detail of the tree and show how everything in nature is artistically unique, right down to the patterns of tree bark.

Sale price: £400

Voting number: 17



How did you hear about the Young Botanical Artist exhibition?

My art teacher announced the art competition ... and I just couldn't resist!

Were you a keen artist before you learned about the competition?

Yes! I have always seen it as a means of escape from the world, a way to navigate the complexities of being a teenager and expressing emotions.

Was this your first piece of botanical art?

Yes. When I found out about the competition, I wasn't sure botanical art was for me but once again art surprised me and showed me a path that I never dreamed of exploring. I took this as another creative mission for the sake of creating.

What inspired you to choose your subject material?

As I walked around Epping forest dragging my brother behind me, I found what I was looking for - an old, dying, tall tree. I have always been fascinated with graphite so whenever I have a choice, a pencil always feels like my right hand (literally).

What does it mean to you to be included in this exhibition?

To be included in this competition means that any doubt, fear and disappointment I have is temporary and the Young Botanical Artist competition is only one of the many lights at the end of the tunnel that will help me find myself.



Gabriel Esposito

Italy

Ficus carica

Coloured pencil on paper

I have always been fascinated by Greek mythology where the fig is an emblem of life, strength and knowledge. I have represented three figs, one of which is dissected and the other two hanging from a branch with two of their leaves. Alongside is a fig wasp of the Chalcidoidea family, which spends its larval stage inside figs.

Not for sale

Voting number: 24



How did you hear about the Young Botanical Artist exhibition?

It was a proposition from my high school art teacher at Brera Art School. I was immediately interested in the Young Botanical Artist Competition because I have always had a strong interest in biology, in addition to drawing.

Were you a keen artist before you learned about the competition?

Yes! I've always had a passion for drawing and knew that art would be my future. I'm now enrolled in the Brera Art School. As well as being a determined perfectionist, I am reserved and introverted and enjoy communicating through my art.

Was this your first piece of botanical art?

I've always been a biology enthusiast. However, I've also always limited myself to the animal world. So it was my first botanical artwork.

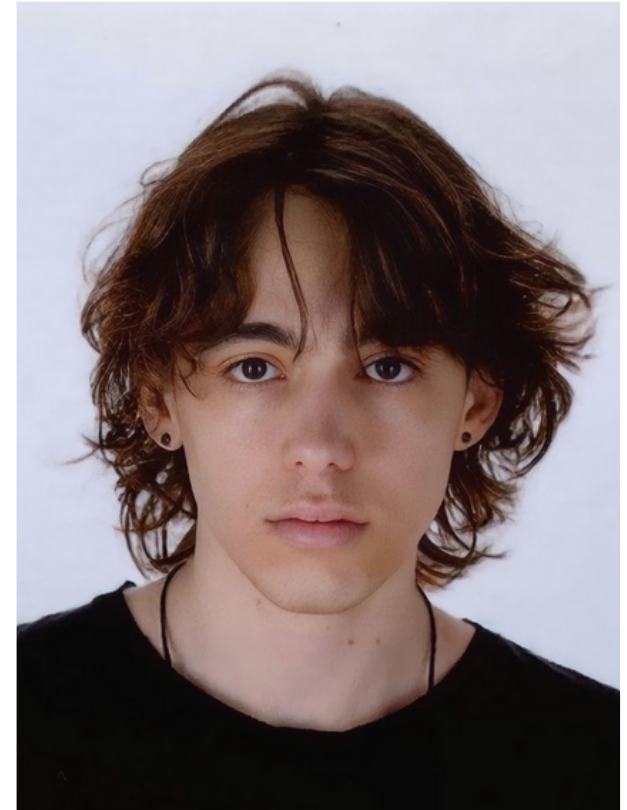
What inspired you to choose your subject material?

The various hidden and symbolic meanings that the plant has acquired throughout history.

What does it mean to you to be included in this exhibition?

For me, being part of this exhibition is almost like a confirmation. Although I always knew I was good at art, I was afraid of making the wrong choices. Now I'm sure that art will never abandon me whichever path I take.

Instagram: @gabriel__esposito



Poppy Emerson

United Kingdom

Horse Chestnut

Watercolour on paper

When summer comes to an end and winter looms large, trees start scattering their seeds. None are quite so intricate or beautiful as these strange spiky forms which dangle from treetops until ready to drop and be captured. I wanted to contrast the green, pointy exterior with the smooth, polished mahogany seed that reflects the light.

Not for sale

Voting number: 9



Poppy Emerson lives in Wimbledon and is a Sixth Form student at Kingston Grammar School. She first discovered her love for realistic painting during her GCSE Art & Design where she used a mixture of mediums including acrylics and oils. She focused on photorealism in her GCSE projects and used the skills she learned in her botanical painting. Poppy is now studying A-level art and is learning to further develop her techniques through a broad range of art practices and mediums in a range of styles. She aims to study Art at university and pursue a creative career.

How did you hear about the Young Botanical Artist exhibition?

I heard about the competition in an Instagram post advertising the Shirley Sherwood Gallery and competition.

Were you a keen artist before you learned about the competition?

I have always loved art and have studied it at GCSE and now at A-Level. I hope to also study Art at university and have a creative career in the future.

Was this your first piece of botanical art?

This was my first piece of art completed in a specifically botanical style. I have loved studying plants and natural forms before but have not done so in such a realistic and botanical approach.

What inspired you to choose your subject material?

My painting was inspired by autumn walks through parks and woodlands and discovering horse chestnuts scattered across the ground. As a child, I loved to collect them in my pockets because of their smooth shiny appearance and prickly green outer layer, and I was reminded of these memories when thinking of a subject to fit the theme of 'trees'.

What does it mean to you to be included in this exhibition?

It means a great deal to be included in this exhibition as a young artist and that my painting has been recognised by such renowned botanical artists. I think it will definitely inspire and motivate me to continue to produce botanical art.





Artwork: Amanda Casanovas, 'Holm Oak Spell', Watercolour on paper



19-25 AGE CATEGORY



WINNER
19-25

Khanh Ly Nguyễn

Vietnam

Bauhinia variegata Leaf

Watercolour on paper

Since I was a child, I have nurtured my love for art and the diversity of the natural world with energy and passion. I started my botanical art journey with Vietnamese indigenous plants such as Bauhinia variegata. This 'orchid tree' reminds me of summertime passing by as its butterfly-shaped leaves change from green to brown.

Sale price: £2,000

Voting number: 1



Bauhinia Variegata

Khanh Ly

How did you hear about the Young Botanical Artist exhibition?

I saw through Lucy T. Smith's Instagram that her *Victoria amazonica* leaf was being displayed as part of *The Wonderful World of Water Plants* at Shirley Sherwood Gallery. This pointed me to The Shirley Sherwood Collection and the information about the Competition.

Were you a keen artist before you learned about the competition?

Ever since I was a child I have loved art, especially classical watercolour techniques. The idea of starting botanical art came to me when I first saw a lily growing by the roadside; it looked exactly like the botanical painting in *The Book of Flowers* by Pierre-Joseph Redouté.

Was this your first piece of botanical art?

The *Bauhinia variegata* Leaf is my second piece of botanical art. The first one is *Khaya senegalensis*, which is a Vietnamese childhood tropical plant.

What inspired you to choose your subject material?

One of my favourite artists, Asuka Hishiki, inspired me with her amazing detail and unique perspectives; I especially love her *Acquaintances* series. The Bauhinia leaf caught my eye because of its beautiful gradient colour and I was intrigued by the way it looked like a heart from some viewpoints and at others, kidneys. When I began to look at it in more detail, I saw its connection with our own bodily characteristics. It was strange and fascinating.

What does it mean to you to be included in this exhibition?

I have to say, before I entered this competition, I was self-deprecating about my artwork. Although I won the Silver Medal in *Plantae Documentary 2022*, I still wondered whether my work was good enough. I don't know much about botany, I just draw plants which resonate with me, especially ones which remind me of my childhood. The more I draw, the more I wonder if I've done them justice and if I'm good enough. Winning the Young Botanical Artist Competition has given me a strong motivation to develop my skills further and to keep learning.



Determined to pursue a career rooted in art and nature, Ly Nguyen attended professional art classes and worked hard to become a realistic contemporary watercolour and botanical artist. Working with a passion for flora and fauna, she endeavours to capture botany from more conceptual perspectives influenced by contemporary life.



RUNNER-UP
19-25

Anusara Choojan

Thailand

Half Hidden

Coloured pencil on paper

This drawing displays a dissection of the young flower and fruit of the Gustavia tree (Gustavia superba). The fascinating characters of the flower and fruit are half hidden; the flower petals enclose vital components like the stamens and pistil, shield the developing bloom while it waits to reach maturity, and draw pollinators in with their magnificence.

Not for sale

Voting number: 5



Anusara Choojan was born in Thailand in 2000. She recently graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Art Education from the Faculty of Education at Chulalongkorn University, Thailand. She has been fascinated with art since her childhood, especially the portrayal of nature and flowers. She is now a freelance artist living in Bangkok.

How did you hear about the Young Botanical Artist exhibition?

I heard the news through a lecturer who teaches me scientific illustration at the university.

Were you a keen artist before you learned about the competition?

Yes, I have been drawing and studying art for some time now.

Was this your first piece of botanical art?

Yes, this is my first complete botanical artwork.

What inspired you to choose your subject material?

I was inspired by the trees on the university campus. The Gustavia tree caught my eye with its unique fruit and flowers. I love the colours and the structures of the flower and fruit, with numerous stamens surrounding an ovary and fruit enclosing seeds. It looks like they are hiding their vital parts.

What does it mean to you to be included in this exhibition?

This was my very first submission for the competition and I have learned how to draw in a botanical way. It has been a valuable experience and I'm now driven to create new artwork in the future.

Instagram: @miew.ac





RUNNER-UP
19-25

Xinyi Liu

China

Avocado Seed

Coloured pencil on paper

I rescued this seed from the sun and, although slightly burnt, it started to sprout new roots and kept growing as I drew. It is now over 30 cm tall and has four leaves. We often forget that the avocados in our kitchen can grow into something big, so I hope my work draws attention to the resilient seed that is the starting point of a large tree.

Sale price: £800

Voting number: 6



Born in Hebei, China, in 1998, Xinyi Liu now lives in Melbourne, Australia, where she works as an emerging artist and educator. Throughout her artistic career, she has consistently drawn inspiration from natural objects. Xinyi's work embodies an appreciation of the unique forms and textures present in nature; everything, from tiny insects to supermarket fruits, could be the genesis of her artwork. Observation plays a pivotal role in her process, and she tends to observe with curiosity rather than objective analysis. Because of this approach, she doesn't feel bound to the scientific accuracy of her subjects, or feel the need to provide logical explanations for her creations. In 2022, Xinyi graduated from Monash University with a Bachelor's Degree in Visual Art and Secondary Education. One of her first group exhibitions, The Warmth, took place in her home city of Shijiazhuang in 2021. Her pieces have now been displayed in exhibitions in Shanghai (Welcome, 2022), Melbourne (MADA Now, 2020; MADA Now, 2021; Supermarket Wanders, 2022; Room to Grow, 2022; Six Muted, 2022), virtual space (Through Time and Space, 2023) and at the Young Botanical Artist exhibition.

How did you hear about the Young Botanical Artist exhibition?

I started following Dr. Shirley Sherwood on Instagram and saw the competition there.

Were you a keen artist before you learned about the competition?

Yes, I have always been passionate about art making, and have been practising as a visual artist for a while before I learned about the competition.

Was this your first piece of botanical art?

I have always included flora, fauna and other natural elements in my artwork, but I think the avocado seed is the first botanical piece that I created with full colour.

What inspired you to choose your subject material?

I wanted to capture something that is overlooked. People don't usually think of the avocado in their kitchen as something that could grow into a big tree. I happened to have a few avocado plants that I grew from seeds, and they became the direct inspiration for this drawing.

What does it mean to you to be included in this exhibition?

As an emerging artist, being included in this exhibition is a huge encouragement. Pursuing a career in art is not easy, and for me one of the biggest obstacles is self-doubt. Being recognised in an international competition encourages me to continue making art. At the same time, it also allows me to consider new possibilities and avenues to keep developing as an artist.



Instagram: @luna_owo_



RUNNER-UP
19-25

Zoe Dobson

United Kingdom

Hazel

Watercolour and pencil
on paper

This piece is the culmination of two years of research into the life cycle of the hazel (Corylus avellana). It is a full botanical study of the species based upon observations, sketches and investigation conducted across the four seasons. The composition reflects the hazel life cycle, with emerging spring leaves at the top through to the ripening hazelnuts at the bottom.

Not for sale

Voting number: 3



Since childhood, Zoe Dobson has been fascinated with the details of the natural world; she still pockets conkers, pinecones, shells, pieces of bark and sprigs of lichen to add to her ever-increasing 'Collection of Found Things'. Her first venture into botanical art was a university tutor's recommendation to apply for the RBGE Botanical Illustration Certificate course when she discovered that her love for both art and plant science could be combined with the medium of watercolour. Zoe is now in her final year of the RBGE Diploma course, where she has begun to find her style and particular interests. In her work, she hopes to shine a light on the intricacies and often overlooked aspects of plants, by scaling up individual parts to emphasise their beauty and depicting the hidden/secret world of roots. Zoe currently lives and works in Sheffield as a Landscape Architect.

How did you hear about the Young Botanical Artist exhibition?

I heard about the competition through The Shirley Sherwood Collection Instagram account.

Were you a keen artist before you learned about the competition?

Yes, I started painting in 2019 with the RBGE certificate course in Botanical Illustration.

Was this your first piece of botanical art?

I have painted a few pieces before, but none as big as this!

What inspired you to choose your subject material?

Hazels are a common sight in the UK, but the details of the flowers and hazelnuts are often under-appreciated especially the inconspicuous female flowers, so I wanted to draw attention to these parts.

What does it mean to you to be included in this exhibition?

It is my first exhibition, and I'm incredibly honoured to be exhibiting at the prestigious Shirley Sherwood Gallery at Kew, which I have visited several times to look at the amazing botanical artwork from all over the world.

Instagram: @zoe.botanical.art





RUNNER-UP
19-25

Valeria Brambilla

Italy

Death of an Olive Tree

Due to Xylella

Black ballpoint pen on paper

I have chosen to illustrate an olive tree (Olea europaea) from southern Italy affected by Xylella, a pathogen that has been devastating olive groves in Italy, Spain and France since 2017 and leaving trees bare. This situation is partly caused by environmental factors due to climate change and the importing of plants containing foreign bacteria.

Sale price: £1,200

Voting number: 4



Valeria Brambilla studied botanical illustration at the Brera Academy of Fine Arts in Milan. She has been combining artistic techniques and a personal poetic flair with strict scientific accuracy. Through her work, Valeria endeavours to encourage a closer, more comprehensive relationship to nature. She captures the under-appreciated, often ignored aspects of nature to make their beauty known. After a careful study of the chosen subject, often using a magnifying glass, she uses an extra fine point ballpoint pen to illustrate. Not able to erase during the process, she enjoys the challenge the medium brings; it encourages total concentration and calm.

How did you hear about the Young Botanical Artist exhibition?

Although I already knew The Shirley Sherwood Collection, a friend of mine sent me the link to the Young Botanical Art Competition. When I read it I couldn't believe it, I was so excited!

Were you a keen artist before you learned about the competition?

I have always loved botanical art but for me, it is not just something I know and love to do, it is also a social commitment. Faced with the terrible climate change situation, it is essential for me to keep track of the changes that are taking place in nature and represent them.

Was this your first piece of botanical art?

No - I started my studies in botanical art at the Brera Academy of Fine Arts in Milan.

What inspired you to choose your subject material?

The topic of Xylella is something I particularly have at heart. Seeing the millenarian olive trees die from this bacterium is terrible. It really makes you think about how much we are destroying our planet. Moreover, my family and I own an olive grove with trees planted by my ancestors. If they were to die, it would have an impact on the quantity and quantity of oil, but it would also mean of loss of our family roots and a part of our history would be destroyed.

What does it mean to you to be included in this exhibition?

Being included in this exhibition is a true honour as The Shirley Sherwood Collection is so prestigious! Moreover, the fact that my artwork has been recognised by such high-level judges is an immeasurable joy for me.

Instagram: @vb.locusamoenus



Clarissa Stefanello

Brazil

Ginkgo Braches

Watercolour on paper

Of all the trees, the ginkgo (Ginkgo biloba) is one of the most emblematic. As a biologist, I see it as more than a beautiful plant; it is the last remnant of Ginkgoaceae, thriving through the ages, with a shape so unique we can barely compare it to other gymnosperms. I wanted to capture its colours in an artistic yet scientific display.

Not for sale

Voting number: 43



Clarissa Stefanello loves being able to combine the two things she adores most - art and science - through Botanical Illustration. She loves how each painting is unique and carries signs of the artist's emotions and the singularity of the moment. To her, botanical illustration is also about preserving nature, encapsulating all of its beauty and complexity.

How did you hear about the Young Botanical Artist exhibition?

I heard about the Competition from my mentor, and she has supported me during the entire process.

Were you a keen artist before you learned about the competition?

Though not my first artwork, *Ginkgo Branches* may have been the most elaborate – it took me so long to finish!

Was this your first piece of botanical art?

I have always enjoyed drawing and painting, but I used to be perplexed by the detail of the plants. This is what motivated me to take the botanical art course at the Botanical Illustration Centre, located in my city.

What inspired you to choose your subject material?

I decided to paint the ginkgo because it is such an iconic, classic, tree that probably every artist has done a representation of. I wanted to have my own version and thought the ginkgo really suited the theme.

What does it mean to you to be included in this exhibition?

To have my artwork included in the exhibition is an unbelievable dream, and it really encourages me to keep painting and improving. This Competition has shown me that, even though I am not an established artist, my work is appreciated, and I am capable of representing the beautiful plants around me well.

Instagram: @clari_reed



Kailin Sun

Germany

Coniferae,

Watercolour on 50%
cotton paper

As a botany student, I find the phylogeny and diversity of gymnosperms fascinating. This piece is a representation of extant conifers from around the world, chosen to showcase the diversity of seed cone structure across six different families (at 2× magnification). It was inspired by a practical class on plant morphology during my master's degree.

Sale price: £2,000

Voting number: 33



Kailin Sun spent the first 18 years of her life in West Yorkshire, before reading Biological Sciences at Merton College at the University of Oxford. After meeting her German husband there, she moved to Herrsching am Ammersee, Germany and completed an MSc in Evolution, Ecology and Systematics at the Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich. Her current goals are to earn a doctorate in Botany and to obtain dual UK-German citizenship. For Kailin, the process of creating botanical art is an exercise in observation; It trains the mind to see things as they are and not how they 'ought' to be.

How did you hear about the Young Botanical Artist exhibition?

I like to stay updated on anything related to botanical art or research in botany on social media – most of my Instagram feed is related to art or science. Kew Gardens, where the Shirley Sherwood Gallery is located, happens to tick both boxes!

Were you a keen artist before you learned about the competition?

Drawing has always been an important hobby for me, ever since I was old enough to hold a pencil. At school, I dabbled in things like card-making and sketching thumbnails of my friends' faces, but somehow never considered pursuing it as a career. A GCSE in Art and Design is still the only art qualification I have!

Was this your first piece of botanical art?

I was lucky enough to study Biological Sciences at the University of Oxford. It's a truly special place to study. The inspirational teachers are a key factor in this. In particular, the second-year field trip to Tenerife (2017) on plant biodiversity and biogeography was the catalyst for my focus on botanical art, as well as my reason to focus on botany for my Master's degree and beyond.

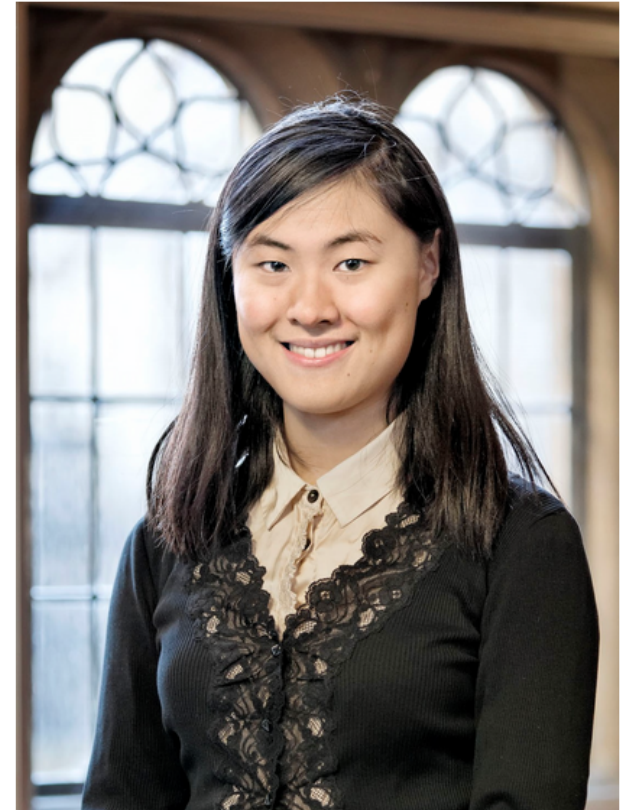
What inspired you to choose your subject material?

Pine cones have been one of my favourite motifs since my field trip to Tenerife, so the theme of 'Trees' played quite well into that. *Coniferae* was again inspired by a university course which came with an essay assignment on the evolution and phylogeny of conifers, so for me, the piece is a visual representation of that.

What does it mean to you to be included in this exhibition?

I am very surprised (and honoured!) to have been selected. There are so many talented young artists out there, and to be judged so positively by experts as an unqualified amateur is quite overwhelming. It is a privilege to exhibit my work at such a venue.

Instagram: @kailin_sun_botanical_artist



Manali Patil

India

Dry Oakleaf Fern

Watercolour on paper

This artwork shows a branch of a mango tree (Mangifera indica) covered with dry leaves of oakleaf basket fern (Drynaria quercifolia). The fern has large foliage fronds and smaller nest fronds resembling the leaves of oak. During dry seasons, the foliage fronds wither and fall off, leaving the brown, papery nest fronds behind on the trees.

Sale price: £800

Voting number: 10



Manali Patil is a botanical and natural history illustrator from India. She grew up in a small town close to the Western Ghats of India. She graduated in Life Sciences from Sophia College Mumbai in 2020. Later, as she developed an interest in botanical art, she completed a distance learning certificate course in botanical illustration from RBGE. She gets inspired by the rich biodiversity she encounters on her walks - she loves capturing its beauty and nuances in watercolour medium and exploring the relationships and interconnectedness of different life forms. Manali has made botanical artwork for brands such as Aramse Coffee and wildlife murals on public walls with the renowned Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF) organization in India. She collaborates with researchers to achieve scientific accuracy and enjoys working on creative projects with fellow artists and nature enthusiasts.

How did you hear about the Young Botanical Artist exhibition?

I got to know about the competition through The Shirley Sherwood Collection Instagram page.

Was this your first piece of botanical art?

No, I have been practising botanical art for the last three years (since age 21), and have made several botanical artworks.

What inspired you to choose your subject material?

Ever since I was a kid, I have enjoyed observing the veins and details on the dried leaves of Drynaria/Oakleaf basket fern that are attached to tree trunks. I often find myself struggling with mixing the right shades of brown in watercolour medium. So, I decided to challenge myself anyway and give my favourite subject a try – it was fantastic!

What does it mean to you to be included in this exhibition?

It is a great honour to be selected for this display at The Shirley Sherwood Gallery. I have tried applying for several contests and exhibitions before this one but my artworks were never chosen. This is the first time my art has been exhibited... and in Kew Gardens! It feels like a dream, and I couldn't be more grateful.

Instagram: @manalipatil.art



George Cox

United Kingdom

Fig Tree

Pen on paper

The fig tree (Ficus carica) has been revered throughout mythology, and I find the pattern in its broad leaves stunning. I produced this drawing using pens while sketching on holiday and shaded using crosshatching techniques, evoking the marks generated in traditional botanical illustrations during the etching and printing method.

Sale price: £450

Voting number: 7



George tends to employ traditional illustrative methods in his techniques as well as printmaking. He often uses pen and ink when producing artwork and subjects vary from plant life and specimens of natural history to the folklore and tales associated with them.

How did you hear about the Young Botanical Artist exhibition?

I found out about the Young Botanical Artist Competition online through Instagram and subsequently The Shirley Sherwood Collection website.

Were you a keen artist before you learned about the competition?

I was actively producing botanical artwork before the competition, having studied illustration at university and later focusing on plants as my subject of choice in most of my recent work.

Was this your first piece of botanical art?

Although this was not my first piece of botanical artwork, this study carries a lot of meaning for me.

What inspired you to choose your subject material?

I produced this drawing from observation when I was on holiday in Greece a couple of years ago. With the tragic wildfires that have occurred in this area recently, I feel this piece captures a melancholy aspect of a specimen that probably is not there any more but highlights the resilience of nature in hoping that the ecosystem of this region will recover.

What does it mean to you to be included in this exhibition?

I am honoured to be included in such a prestigious exhibition alongside incredible artists, situated in an institution that conserves and celebrates nature. Having grown up with a keen interest in plant life, I am in a state of disbelief to have my work recognised by experts in the botanical field and to be given an opportunity like this.

Instagram: @georgecoxartwork



Elia Vanderheyden

Belgium

Tree's Lament

Woodcut on paper

Tree's Lament is a woodcut about climate change, nature and melancholy. It represents the death of our planet, how we are killing its trees and forgetting to see beauty in that which has been lost to us. The woodcut was made from 7 layers of birch wood printed on Japanese paper.

Sale price: £400

Voting number: 26



Elia's artistic journey has been shaped by thoughts on our planet's future and the harrowing spectre of climate change. Tree's Lament, a piece linking the medium of woodcut to the subject of trees, began an exploration of the innate patterns of wood with a stark, melancholic palette. Elia seeks to produce work which balances gravitas, optimism and introspection and hopes to represent a collective consciousness of the challenges before us.

How did you hear about the Young Botanical Artist exhibition?

I found it online while looking for interesting competitions revolving around the landscape.

Were you a keen artist before you learned about the competition?

Yes, I definitely was and still am! I've always been very passionate about my art and being able to share it. I think I have a strong message within my work which I'm tremendously excited to be able to share with the world.

Was this your first piece of botanical art?

I think it was. Although I have definitely drawn some trees and landscapes in the past, this was the first botanical artwork that I felt confident about properly showing.

What inspired you to choose your subject material?

The tree itself inspired me. It felt extremely captivating, as if it wanted me to depict it in a way that goes beyond death. It's a deceased tree: a sombre emblem of climate change and I felt inspired to use the medium of woodcut, ironically reliant on felled trees, to honour this.

What does it mean to you to be included in this exhibition?

It means the world to me, the UK is an amazing country that I've always wanted to visit, especially in regard to printmaking. Hearing that my woodcut was the first woodcut in The Shirley Sherwood Gallery made this even 10 times better!

Instagram: @eliavanderheyden



Carolina M. Correia

Portugal

***The Flowers of
Maclura pomifera***

Graphite pen on polyester film

This piece is a composition of the pistillate (female) and staminate (male) flowers of the Osage orange (Maclura pomifera), which are found on different trees and are intricate, unmistakable structures. It was created as a visual guide to help identify these delicate forms. A further developed, digitised version is on view in a glass display case.

Sale price: £875

Voting number: 38



Carolina was born in 1998 in Alcobaça, a small city in the central region of Portugal. She studied Biology and Sciences in high school and has a Bachelor's degree in Drawing from the Faculty of Fine Arts at the University of Lisbon. She attended a course in Scientific Illustration (Natural Drawing Course) at the National Museum of Natural History and Science, MNHNC Lisbon, Portugal and is currently one of the participating artists in the Illustrare exhibition at MNHNC Lisbon. She has been a member of the printmaking collective, 'People of Print', since 2021. She contributed with illustrations for the info plaques of the Lisbon Botanical Gardens (2020) and is an author of a mural included in the project 'Provincere - Caminho Cultural de Cabril' (Gerês - 2020). She currently works as a freelance scientific illustrator and printmaker artist in Austria and manages an online shop for her prints.

How did you hear about the Young Botanical Artist exhibition?

I heard about it through social media when I saw an announcement about the contest on the Guild of Natural Science Illustrator's Facebook page.

Were you a keen artist before you learned about the competition?

Definitely! I have been practising and learning Scientific Illustration for six years now and am working towards taking it up professionally. I always had an inclination and fascination for both Biology and Art, so it was natural for me to start combining the two and exploring the world of Scientific Illustration. Later, while developing my portfolio, I found a special interest in Botany and have been delving into Botanical Art ever since.

Was this your first piece of botanical art?

No, I have done a few other pieces before. Botanical Art is my main area of interest, so most of my scientific illustrations done so far fall in that category.

What inspired you to choose your subject material?

It all started as a project at the end of my Scientific Illustration course. We had a list of species from the Lisbon Botanical Garden and the Maclura pomifera tree really called to me because of its intricate structures. I saw it as a challenge and decided to try to represent the difficult structures as best I could.

What does it mean to you to be included in this exhibition?

This exhibition (and the contest itself) is an absolute honour, especially for young artists who are starting out in the art world. As I am still starting my professional journey as an artist, the visibility this exhibition can bring is incredibly valuable and a motivator to keep working hard on my skills and new projects.



Instagram: @carolina.m.correia.art or

@carolina.m.correia.print

Tick Tock: carolinasprintstudio

Facebook: carolina.m.correia.art

Holly Porter

United Kingdom

Small Beginnings

Watercolour on paper

This painting is of an undetermined oak (Quercus) sapling grown by my uncle in a recycled port bottle. Oaks are among the most distinguished tree species, interwoven with the history and folklore of England. Painting an oak sapling as my introduction to the world of botanical art seemed a fitting first step as an aspiring artist.

Not for sale

Voting number: 37



Holly Porter is currently a student of Zoology at Aberystwyth University and is attempting to complete a certificate in Natural History Studies and Illustration alongside her bachelor's degree.

How did you hear about the Young Botanical Artist exhibition?

My uncle and aunt were the ones to suggest that I should enter this competition.

Were you a keen artist before you learned about the competition?

Yes. Botanical and scientific illustration are fields of particular interest to me as they perfectly capture a relationship between my two main passions - biological science and art.

Was this your first piece of botanical art?

Although I have always painted, my first piece of botanical art was two years ago when I first started university, and since then I have filled a sketchbook and produced around five completed pieces.

What inspired you to choose your subject material?

My family have always been an unwavering support to me and my pursuits, and I wanted to capture that within my submitted piece. My Grandma chose my painting subject: an acorn growing in a port bottle. It was perfect. It seemed to fit the theme exactly, allowing me to paint root to shoot, and presented the challenge of painting glass for the first time.

What does it mean to you to be included in this exhibition?

It is such an honour to have one of my pieces at the Sherwood Gallery and I am so excited for what may come next.

Instagram: @thepaintingporter



Amanda Casanovas

Spain

Holm Oak Spell

Watercolour on paper

'Encina' in Spanish, the holm oak (Quercus ilex) is the ancient mother of the Mediterranean. Strong and imposing while also familiar, it creates dense forests undisturbed by man, yet accompanies us on roadsides like an old friend. The acorn is the oak's genesis, and this triangular composition creates a spell that makes the cycle of life eternal.

Sale price: £950

Voting number: 30



Born in 1999 in Barcelona, Spain, Amanda Casanovas has been passionate about nature and drawing since childhood. Now a Biology student, she has deepened her understanding of plants and their relationship with their surroundings. Over the course of her degree, she had the chance to work with experienced scientists and research groups that worked on plant ecology. It was then that she became interested in scientific illustration and botanical art, and started taking courses. It was a way of merging two worlds that she thought were opposites, and she became enchanted by it. Although she also produces more imaginative paintings of fantasy worlds far from the scientific reality engrained in her studies, they too are inspired by nature. After graduating in Biology, Amanda started a Master's in Scientific and Naturalistic Illustration in Girona, which opened doors to a career in botanical art.

How did you hear about the Young Botanical Artist exhibition?

I found out via social media, through the posts and re-posts by botanical artists I follow and admire. I thought it was a great challenge and an opportunity to connect with other artists.

Was this your first piece of botanical art?

No, botany is one of my favourite subjects to paint, alongside all other kinds of natural elements. I'm delighted to have attended the courses of renowned artists like Isik Güner and Mary Dillon, where I was introduced to the world and techniques of botanical art.

What inspired you to choose your subject material?

The holm oak (*Quercus ilex*) is one of the most frequent and iconic trees of the Mediterranean landscape, where I live, and for me, it's the embodiment of the theme 'Trees'. I wanted to enhance the importance of simpler things that may be usually overlooked but actually hold another kind of beauty.

What does it mean to you to be included in this exhibition?

I am overjoyed to have been included in the exhibition. It feels like a dream! Having been interested in botanical art for a long time, I feel like I'm entering a world I only saw through a window. I know the collection contains the works of magnificent artists; some I have admired for a long time. Also, as an enthusiastic botanist, the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew, was one of the places I was most keen on visiting. I painted the picture specially for the competition, and it has become very dear to me. Seeing it exhibited in such a place will be incredible.



Instagram: @amanda.millefolia

Allison Boulter

United States

Honey Locust

Watercolour on paper

This piece was created as a reminder of my connection with the natural environments around me and encouraged me to start painting again. I am drawn to the gracefulness and delicate nature of the leaves of the honey locust (Gleditsia triacanthos), as the intricate lines on each branch provide visual information that I find fascinating.

Sale price: £1,200

Voting number: 39



Born in Aurora, Colorado, Allison considers herself to be an 'accidental' life-long botanical artist. Initially inspired to be an artist by her older brother, she has always shown a large interest in depicting nature. She was introduced to the world of botanical art and illustration in 2018 after stumbling across an online post by a botany student praising botanical illustrators for the patience that comes with illustrating lichens. She began to research classes in her area, and then signed up for her first class at Denver Botanic Gardens School of Botanical Art & Illustration in August 2018. Beginning classes was terrifying. Allison had been diagnosed with Takayasu's Arteritis, a rare form of vasculitis, the previous year and underwent major surgery in January 2018. Declaring her love for coloured pencils, and watercolour her enemy, the classes ended up being the highlight of Allison's week. She was infinitely grateful when virtual classes were offered in 2020. After taking a long break, she returned to her coloured pencils and decided to give watercolour another chance.

How did you hear about the Young Botanical Artist exhibition?

I saw a post on my instagram explore page. I was very lucky the deadline was extended.

Were you a keen artist before you learned about the competition?

I'd like to think so.

Was this your first piece of botanical art?

No.

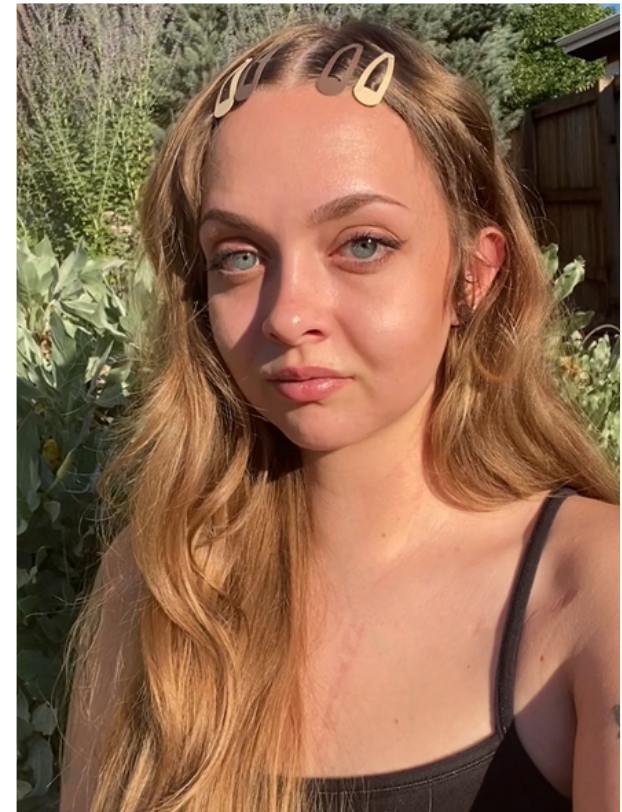
What inspired you to choose your subject material?

I had held onto a honey locust branch my niece hit me with years ago. I don't know why I decided to keep the stick, but it felt right to paint it.

What does it mean to you to be included in this exhibition?

It feels really validating to be included. I'm so self-deprecating and being in this exhibition has really been a boost to my confidence.

Instagram: @allisonbeeillustration



Alice Gastaldo

Brazil

Abricó-de-macaco

Nankin Ink on paper

The cannonball tree (Couroupita guianensis) is a peculiar-looking tree often seen on the streets of Rio de Janeiro, my hometown. Its sweet scent fills the air as it blooms, the spring sun plunging into a city of colour. I could think of no other tree to better represent me in this exhibition and enjoyed the challenge of depicting it with the dotting technique.

Sale price: £3,100

Voting number: 21



Raised in Rio de Janeiro, Alice Gastaldo has always lived by the sea. Between the doodles she liked to make and the universe she liked to explore, it was difficult to choose just one career as a young adult. The same passion that made Alice choose biology had her also land in the Arts. From then on, scientific illustration has held her admiration and dedication alike.

How did you hear about the Young Botanical Artist exhibition?

I found the botanical artist competition online, completely by chance.

Were you a keen artist before you learned about the competition?

Yes. Having worked as an illustrator at a histology lab, it delighted me to follow my own ideal: exploring and painting the universe. Years after my graduation, I noticed I had stopped doodling. Adult life got in the way.

What inspired you to choose your subject material?

I captured a tree which I thought best represents me. It is one which is not native to Rio, but one which made its home there. It is peculiar in its appearance and blooms unexpectedly. It blooms beautifully.

What does it mean to you to be included in this exhibition?

I was so surprised when I found out my work had a place in the exhibition! This competition helped me delve back into what I've always loved, back to scientific art. Saying that it means the world to me seems like an understatement.

Instagram: @plantzineas



A Thit Saisangkhatthisuree

Thailand

Shorea siamensis

Gouache on paper

I came across this plant during a school trip and was impressed by how its fruits fall and spin around beautifully. The grey bark of this deciduous tree is fissured along the length of the trunk and the leaves are simple with rounded tips. The yellow flowers bloom with mild fragrance in bunches on the branch tips from March to April.

Sale price: £800

Voting number: 27



A Thit Saisangkhatthisuree
April 2023

A Thit Saisangkhathitisuree studied at Muban Chom Bueng Rajabhat University, Ratchaburi Province, Thailand and enjoys drawing and learning about trees.

How did you hear about the Young Botanical Artist exhibition?

I heard from my teacher, who first introduced me to botanical drawing. I was already fond of plants, nature, and drawing so I tried to challenge myself for this competition.

Were you a keen artist before you learned about the competition?

I've always drawn, but I've never drawn botany. When I first tried botanical art, I was a little scared... it felt unnatural - so I practised repeatedly.

Was this your first piece of botanical art?

This is my first piece of botanical work and the first piece to be submitted to a competition.

What inspired you to choose your subject material?

The plant I chose to draw, *shorea siamensis*, is special for how it bears fruit and blooms. I always find when the fruits or flowers fall very beautiful because of all their fresh, golden, colours.

What does it mean to you to be included in this exhibition?

To be able to participate in this exhibition is a great honour for me. I couldn't believe that I'd got through the three stages of judging! It will be a wonderful life experience travelling to the UK from Thailand. My dream is about to come true.



Coleen Rilloraza

Philippines

Carica papaya L.

Watercolour on paper

As my father and I were walking along the streets of our neighbourhood in Cavite Province, Philippines, I passed by a series of papaya trees (Carica papaya) near a transport terminal. I was enthralled by the natural beauty of this perennial tree with its lobed leaves and young green fruits, so I painted one... and tasted some sweet slices of papaya too.

Sale price: £1,500

Voting number: 15



Coleen Rilloraza was born in 2002 and grew up as the youngest of three in the Province of Cavite, Philippines. Fascinated with illustrations in children's books and encyclopaedias, she drew natural environments and living organisms - among her favourites were birds and trees. This interest grew with her mother's encouragement to paint her some flowers and plants. With the help of online platforms such as YouTube, Coleen taught herself how to depict detailed subjects. An aspiring artist, she has won many local art competitions and is now a Fine Art student at the University of the Philippines Diliman.

How did you hear about the Young Botanical Artist exhibition?

While searching for a local art competition online, I read about the Young Botanical Artist Competition on a website about international art competitions (<https://intercompetition.com>).

Were you a keen artist before you learned about the competition?

I believe so, yes. I have always focused on detail when I depict my subjects. I was fortunate enough to have been introduced to some lessons shared by botanical artists online. These lessons helped me a lot in portraying various subjects to this day.

Was this your first piece of botanical art?

No, I have made several botanical art pieces before, but this is my first botanical artwork for a competition, and my first ever internationally.

What inspired you to choose your subject material?

The interesting appearance of the tropical plant and the fruits it bears inspired me to paint papaya, which my countrymen also enjoy.

What does it mean to you to be included in this exhibition?

To be part of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to exhibit internationally as an aspiring professional botanical artist is genuinely beyond what I can express in words. I am sincerely grateful to everyone behind this competition and to God, the Creator.

Instagram: @estudio.rllrz



Leyla Garabaeva

Uzbekistan

Apricot Tree in Winter

Watercolour on paper

This deciduous fruit tree reaches a height of 5–8 metres and has light brown bark that cracks, along with rounded-ovate leaves. The flowers are white with pink veins and bloom during March and April before the petiolate leaves appear, while the fruits are round and orange with one large stone inside.

Sale price: £3,990

Voting number: 40



Born in 2004 and now living in the Republic of Uzbekistan, Tashkent, Leyla Garabaeva's love for fine arts started when she was very young. She recalls tracing pictures from books and magazines and drawing cartoons as a child, and, seeing her passion for art, her mother and grandmother enrolled her in the department of drawing and painting at a music school, where she studied for 5 years and graduated with honours. It was here she refined her skills in watercolour, gouache, acrylic, oil, batik paints, stained glass paints, pencil and sculpture. After 9 years of school, she entered a specialised school of design, where she studied for 3 years in the faculty of computer graphics and graduated with honours. Leyla has taken part in various competitions online in countries such as Uzbekistan, Karakalpakstan, Russia, Italy, Japan, Korea, and London. She is presently a student of the famous Uzbek artist, Vladimir Ivanovich Burmakin.

How did you hear about the Young Botanical Artist exhibition?

I found out about this contest online.

Were you a keen artist before you learned about the competition?

Yes, certainly!

Was this your first piece of botanical art?

No. My first botanical artwork was of a flower called *Kniphonia*, the second of a rose, and the third was this one, *Apricot tree in winter*. The fourth work, *Apricot flowering branch*, I also submitted to the competition.

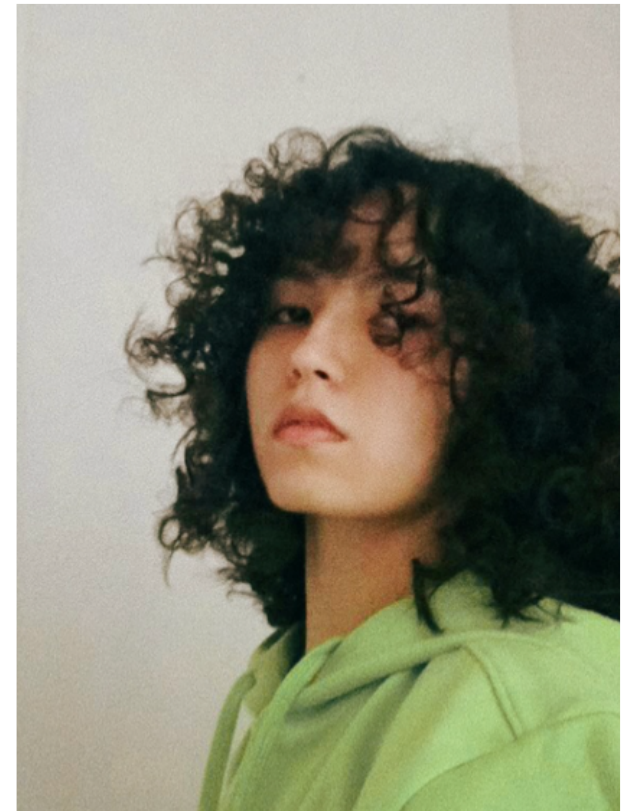
What inspired you to choose your subject material?

I decided to draw the tree without leaves, so you can best see its curves. I used watercolour paints and learned how to use them better.

What does it mean to you to be included in this exhibition?

This is the first time I have exhibited my work abroad. For me, showing my work to the public is like revealing my soul.

Instagram: @leylali.art.official



Natsuki Oka

Japan

Koelreuteria bipinnata
Franch.

Watercolour on paper

This is a tree found on my campus, and we enjoy its colours every season: green in spring, yellow in summer, pink in autumn and brown in winter. In Japan, it is commonly called the 'golden rain tree', and I wanted to express its artistic beauty as well as the scientific details I researched in my university's botanical laboratory.

Not for sale

Voting number: 16



Natsuki Oka is a fourth-year Art History student at the University of Tokyo. She was born in Japan in 2001 and started painting botanical art when she was 13 years old. A self-taught artist, her first artwork, Zakuro (pomegranate) won the second prize amongst Japanese Junior and High school students. She has since gone on to win other botanical art awards with paintings of her local plants such as the Balloon Kazura, basil and lotus.

How did you hear about the Young Botanical Artist exhibition?

I was told about The Young Botanical Artist Competition by botanical artist, Mieko Ishikawa and the director of Tsukuba Botanical Garden, Prof. Hosoya.

Were you a keen artist before you learned about the competition?

Yes

Was this your first piece of botanical art?

No

What inspired you to choose your subject material?

This tree is on my university campus and I see it every day. The colour changes every season and it is very beautiful. The teachers in the botany laboratory of my university also recommended the tree when I asked them for their opinions before I started the painting.

What does it mean to you to be included in this exhibition?

I'm so looking forward to displaying my work at the Shirley Sherwood Gallery with other botanical artists at Kew Gardens. I went there last year and loved the gardens and the beautiful paintings displayed in the gallery, which took my breath away. I feel honoured that my artwork will be exhibited in such a place. I have only participated in Japanese competitions before, so this is the first time I have shown my work abroad.



Ananda Firman Syarif

Indonesia

***I Hope My Seeds Will Grow
After You Cut My Branches
and Let Me Bleed Foolishly***

Watercolour on paper

This artwork is based on the living specimen that grows in the Bogor Botanical Gardens in Indonesia. I first saw the tree in 2017 and painted it between 2019 and 2020 as a tribute to German botanist Georg Eberhard Rumphius (1627–1702), who devoted his life to the study of natural history in the Moluccas, eastern Indonesia.

Not for sale

Voting number: 18



Ananda Firman Syarif is a self-taught artist who combines natural science and mythology. Born in Pekanbaru, 1999, he spent most of his childhood surrounded by art, plants and nature. His grandma taught him how to nurture them. He began to draw plants in 2014 as an attempt to document the wild orchids that he collected from a fallen tree in West Sumatra, Eria multiflora, which bloomed after several months of care. At the end of 2017, he moved to Jakarta and had the chance to meet other botanical artists and botanists when he joined the Indonesian Society of Botanical Artists (IDSBA), founded that year. They had their first exhibition at Bogor Botanical Garden in 2018, Ragam Flora Indonesia, which marked their participation with Botanical Art Worldwide. Since then, Ananda has kept studying and painting plants, with a sensitivity to the environmental crisis at hand.

How did you hear about the Young Botanical Artist exhibition?

I followed the news from The Shirley Sherwood Collection Instagram account early in the year.

Were you a keen artist before you learned about the competition?

Yes!

Was this your first piece of botanical art?

No, it's not.

What inspired you to choose your subject material?

I get inspired by a lot of things but mostly I just rely on my intuition... I feel like the plants are speaking to me when I encounter them.

What does it mean to you to be included in this exhibition?

I feel very honoured that my work will be hung alongside the work of other amazing artists from around the world, and shown and seen by everyone there. Thank you so much for providing such a space for this. It means a lot to me and the tree.

Email: Radianmannaf@gmail.com **Instagram:** [@pflanzenchild](https://www.instagram.com/pflanzenchild)



Vijaya Patil

India

Fruits of Arjuna

Poster colours on paper

On my way to college near the bus stand, there is a large Arjuna tree (Terminalia arjuna). It is a deciduous tree that reaches up to 35 m in height with a spreading crown and drooping branches. I used opaque poster colours to convey the fibrous, woody texture of the fruit and layered shades of colour to show the direction and folds of the veined wings.

Sale price: £800

Voting number: 42



How did you hear about the Young Botanical Artist exhibition?

I heard about the competition on The Shirley Sherwood Collection instagram account.

Were you a keen artist before you learned about the competition?

Yes! I have been fascinated by botanical illustrations since I did my degree in botany. After graduation, I searched for offline botanical illustration courses in my state but I couldn't find one. So I enrolled in the government diploma in fine art. Now I am in the final year of my diploma. I am familiar with both art and science

Was this your first piece of botanical art?

Not really - before this botanical illustration I tried some in watercolour but this one is a detailed work compared to my previous works. I prepared one more artwork of *Erythrina variegata* in poster colours for this competition.

What inspired you to choose your subject material?

I was inspired to paint it because of its fibrous, woody texture and fine lines showing the direction and folds of the veined wings in different shades of earthy brown tones and green tones.

What does it mean to you to be included in this exhibition?

It means a lot to me to be included in this exhibition. As a fine art student, I learned that no one in my college knows about botanical illustrations and their purpose. In India, there are few botanical artists I know and I want to be one of them. This competition gives me the confidence to produce more botanical artworks. It has been a learning experience and has enabled me to evaluate my progress.

Instagram: @vijaycreates



Rio Ananta Prima

Indonesia

Jade

Watercolour on paper

I first saw this plant at the Purwodadi Botanical Garden in East Java, where it is known as the Dlingsem tree and grows naturally in tropical areas. The tree sheds its bark over time and the dark green exterior is replaced with a greenish-silver bark that looks like jade. The stem surface of the new bark resembles a topographical map.

Not for sale

Voting number: 25



Born in Tulungagung, East Java, Indonesia, Rio Ananta Prima has enjoyed art from an early age. He has been particularly active in drawing since studying Fine Art at a university in Surabaya and also likes to explore nature through photography. His introduction to botanical art began when he joined the Indonesian Botanical Arts community in 2018. Rio took a botanical painting class in watercolours with artist Eunike Nugroho and has since used them in his work. He has participated in national exhibitions such as Ragam Flora Indonesia in 2022 and 2023, and one of the paintings he displayed was published in the monograph 'The Genus of Paphiopedilum' by Prof. Guido J. Braem. Rio has a love for Indonesia's various tropical plants, especially orchids and this is what fuels his botanical art.

How did you hear about the Young Botanical Artist exhibition?

I heard about this competition through social media, and my friends from the Indonesian botanical arts community encouraged me. Although a botanical art beginner, I became engrossed in the task. I collected specimens and worked on the painting for about three weeks. It was magic.

Was this your first piece of botanical art?

No, I have been studying it since 2018. I like to paint unique orchids in Java using watercolours, making shapes and giving patterns according to the beauty of each species. I have also submitted my orchid paintings to exhibitions and book publications.

What inspired you to choose your subject material?

I like to walk around botanical gardens for hours - trees and plants become like people I know. When I was in the Purwodadi Botanical Garden, East Java, I saw an upright tree shining among other trees. When I approached, it had a unique character and beckoned to be painted. I started collecting the pieces and assembling them into my work.

What does it mean to you to be included in this exhibition?

It is an honour for me to take part in this exhibition. It means I can tell the world, through works of botanical art, that Indonesia has unique plants and they need to be preserved.



Ana Alonso Bartolomé

Spain

Almond Blossom

Pastel pencils on paper

This artwork depicts a stunning almond tree (Prunus dulcis) in full bloom, with its delicate white and pink petals and a lichen-covered branch. The almond tree is a powerful symbol of hope and new beginnings in Spain as it blooms at the start of the year, calling forth the arrival of spring and the promise of warmer weather.

Sale price: £450

Voting number: 12



Ana Alonso Bartolomé grew up in Palma de Mallorca, Spain. From a young age, she was interested in nature, art and painting and at 8-years-old her parents enrolled her in an after-school art academy, where she learned various painting techniques and developed her artistic skills. Her passion for nature and science motivated her to enrol at the University of Barcelona and pursue a Bachelor's degree in Biotechnology. Despite having to quit her painting classes to focus on her studies, Ana continued painting in her spare time and started to use social media to share her work. After finishing her Bachelor's, she moved to France to pursue a Master's in Genetics and then to Luxembourg to start a PhD in Immunology and Pharmacology. While she is really excited about the prospects of her scientific career, she still holds a passion for art that she feels has been left aside for too long. Now Ana is working hard to balance her artistic and scientific aspirations.

How did you hear about the Young Botanical Artist exhibition?

I was thinking about applying to an art competition to challenge myself and reach a wider audience. I found out about the Young Botanical Artist Competition online. The theme of botanical art and its scientific conscientiousness motivated me to participate.

Were you a keen artist before you learned about the competition?

Yes, I have been painting for as long as I can remember.

Was this your first piece of botanical art?

Yes, until now I have mostly been painting portraits and animals, so this was a fun challenge for me. I really enjoyed the process and it has inspired me to make more botanical-themed pieces.

What inspired you to choose your subject material?

I wanted to create a piece that had sentimental value to me personally but could also resonate with a broader audience. I also wanted to draw with my favourite medium, pastel pencils, which allow me to use a wide variety of colours that can be layered in fine detail. After some brainstorming, I opted for the almond tree blossom, bringing back cherished memories from my visits back home to Mallorca at the beginning of the year.

What does it mean to you to be included in this exhibition?

Being included in this exhibition means that my artwork is valued and that I have a chance to pursue a professional artistic path. I had a period where I was uncertain about how to align this skill while pursuing my scientific career. This exhibition, however, has given me a new opportunity to advance my artistic journey and I feel honoured and grateful to be selected.

Instagram: @analonso.art



Manuel Sánchez Villegas

Spain

The Douglas Cone

Graphite and coloured pencil
on paper

The Douglas fir (Pseudotsuga menziesii) grows naturally in the western part of North America. Perhaps the most eye-catching feature of this conifer, apart from the fact that it is one of the tallest in the world, is its female cones. Between the scales, which are arranged in a spiral, emerge three-pointed bracts that resemble the back legs and tail of a mouse.

Sale price: £800

Voting number: 20



Manuel Sánchez Villegas
2023.

Ever since Manuel Sánchez Villegas was a child he was enthusiastic about the beauty and mysteries of the natural world. He recalls how he tried to copy the illustrations of the living beings that appeared in various nature guides that he had at home, “opening a door that has never been closed”. It was not until his first years of Agricultural Engineering BSc studies that he began to learn the basics of botanical illustration, which has given him the opportunity to collaborate with the Department of Botany at the Pablo de Olavide University in Seville. During this period, he has been lucky enough to be selected to participate as an illustrator and co-author of several scientific articles (e.g., a monograph of the genus *Carex*, section *Schoenoxiphium*) and books (e.g., *Guía de campo de las ciperáceas de España y Portugal*, with more than 150 illustrations; JOLUBE Ed.; Spanish edition ISBN 978-84-126656-0-4, August 2023; English edition currently in progress). Although a large part of his learning has been self-taught, Manuel also received four months of lessons from Rodrigo Tavera, illustrator of the well-known book series ‘*Flora Ibérica*’, edited by the Royal Botanical Garden of Madrid.

How did you hear about the Young Botanical Artist exhibition?

I learned about the contest through illustrator Deborah Lambkin's Instagram account.

Were you a keen artist before you learned about the competition?

Yes. I have even had the great pleasure of collaborating with researchers for the elaboration of books and papers as an illustrator.

Was this your first piece of botanical art?

No. I have been learning about botanical art for several years and I have enjoyed it very much.

What inspired you to choose your subject material?

I love coniferous forests, and even more so, the beautiful shapes of their female cones. So I decided to represent, in a more artistic manner, this structure of an individual of *Pseudotsuga menziesii* from Serra da Estrela in Portugal.

What does it mean to you to be included in this exhibition?

In most cases, the path that illustrators and artists travel is a lonely one. This is why being included in this exhibition means that all the time and effort I am dedicating to my personal learning are not in vain. Above all, I am very happy that the work I am conducting may be appreciated by people who have been doing this job for much longer than me. It is an enormous privilege.



Kanon Tanaka

Japan

Rock araucaria

Araucaria scopulorum

Watercolour on paper

To illustrate rock araucaria (Araucaria scopulorum), I observed living and dried specimens and talked with botanical researchers at the National Museum of Natural History in Paris.

Sale price: £1,600

Voting number: 32



1. Young tree / 2. Overhead view of young tree showing entire branch
3. Tip of twig with young and mature male cones ($\times 3$ magnification)
4. Microsphyll ($\times 25$) / 5. Seed ($\times 4$)
6. Tip of twig with young and mature male cones ($\times 1.5$) / 7. Young leaf ($\times 7$)
8. Overhead view of adult tree / 9. Trunk of adult tree

Kanon Tanaka works as a scientific illustrator and designer in Japan, drawing a range of subjects from animals and botany to chemical reactions and medical research. She uses digital media such as Adobe and Clip Studio Paint, watercolour, pen and graphite pencil. On the side, she also makes websites, flyers and other digital advertisements as a designer. Kanon is currently majoring in The Morphology of Tadpoles at the Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies at Kyoto University. She believes that to become a professional scientific illustrator, one must have the ability to draw illustrations precisely and communicate with researchers, and this is why Kanon continues her scientific studies. She thanks illustrators and researchers in the Paris Natural History Museum as well as various Japanese botanical illustrators, to whom she owes her botanical art abilities.

How did you hear about the Young Botanical Artist exhibition?

My friend who is an illustrator, Marie Aimée Allard, told me about the competition. She is selected for the exhibition too!

Were you a keen artist before you learned about the competition?

Yes.

Was this your first piece of botanical art?

I have done pencil drawings and digital drawings of some parts of plants, but this is the first time I have done a complete detailed botanical painting in watercolour.

What inspired you to choose your subject material?

During my internship at the Paris Natural History Museum, I found living *Araucaria scopulorum*, which is my subject material. I was taken by the unique characteristics, such as the trunk surface and leaf shape. There were many dried specimens in the museums I could observe.

What does it mean to you to be included in this exhibition?

I want to become a professional scientific illustrator to draw accurate and beautiful illustrations that are acceptable to both researchers and non-researchers. Being selected for this fantastic exhibition means that I am now one step closer to that dream. I am very glad to be included.



Instagram: @ramen.umauma0216_

Andrew Sviridov

United Kingdom

Methuselah

Graphite pencils and
watercolour on paper

I have depicted the grandfather of all trees: a 4,854-year-old Great Basin bristlecone pine (Pinus longaeva) growing in the White Mountains of California. While there have been several trees discovered of similar age and status, Methuselah is among the most revered, and its precise location is often left ambiguous to prevent harm.

Sale price: £300

Voting number: 14



Andrew Nikolayevich Sviridov is an Artist and Illustrator based in the U.K. with nearly a decade of work experience in both classical portraiture and illustration. He has a Bachelor's (Hons) in Illustration and is currently pursuing a Masters in Illustration and Visual Communication. Working across multiple practices, Andrew strives to preserve traditional working methods and processes in every job. His influences include Russian master painters such as Ilya Repin and Ivan Shishkin, the breadth of art created during the Art Nouveau period from across the world and artists like Ivan Bilbin and Alphonse Mucha.

How did you hear about the Young Botanical Artist exhibition?

I knew of the competition beforehand, where from exactly I couldn't tell you but I had the perfect opportunity to create a work for it as part of a university project brief.

Were you a keen artist before you learned about the competition?

Very much so! I always knew I wanted a career in the arts and have been very fortunate in making that childhood dream come to fruition; recently completing my Bachelors in Illustration and continuing on to do a Masters at the RCA.

Was this your first piece of botanical art?

Yes. I've done many landscapes and the like before but this is my first solely botanical artwork. I always enjoy a challenge and this was a joy to create!

What inspired you to choose your subject material?

I find we all have an inner fascination with the world's biggest, world's tallest, world's oldest, most expensive, etc. I immediately had the thought of rendering the Great Methuselah tree in California, a Great Basin bristlecone pine, deemed the world's oldest living tree at 4,855-years old.

What does it mean to you to be included in this exhibition?

It means a lot! I received the news by phone while travelling Europe and it was unbelievable and left me stumbling over my words. I am excited to see all the final qualifying works as well as the opportunity to exhibit alongside the finalists in October.



Jack Ball

United Kingdom

Cherry Blossom

Watercolour and gouache on paper

My work depicts a single cherry tree (Prunus avium) branch adorned with delicate pink blossoms, bearing the promise of fruit. The flowers show the different periods of a blossom's life, from full bloom with bright red stamens and pollen-covered ends to more aged and withered, with encroaching brown petals. Among the blossoms are rich amber leaves.

Sale price: £500

Voting number: 34



Jack Ball is a UK-based Artist with a Masters in Art and Design. During his degree, he has experimented with numerous techniques and disciplines and developed a practice that accurately illustrates the natural world using traditional mediums of watercolour or graphite/charcoal. As well as searching for a sense of realism through his work, Jack also loves to display the unique qualities of the medium being used. His work ranges from expressive wildlife portraiture to detailed illustrations of botanical flora - yet throughout, he makes use of negative space, allowing his figures to stand alone against the absence of a background. Jack loves producing imagery that displays knowledge and a deep understanding of the chosen subject.

How did you hear about the Young Botanical Artist exhibition?

I had started to experiment with watercolour painting and decided to look online to see if there was any way to display them. After finding the Young Botanical Artist Competition and researching the Shirley Sherwood Collection Gallery, I produced a piece that fit the criteria.

Were you a keen artist before you learned about the competition?

Yes, I chose Art as a subject throughout my academic career and, after studying at university for 5 years, I have recently achieved my Master's Degree in Research by Art and Design.

Was this your first piece of botanical art?

Although I have produced work on the topic of Nature before, this usually took the form of an installation piece. Therefore my entry is one of my first paintings that solely focuses on analysis and accurately illustrating a botanical form.

What inspired you to choose your subject material?

The topic of 'Trees' led me to decide on a branch as it would allow me to get finer detail than producing a piece displaying the entirety of the tree. When choosing this particular branch, I was intrigued by its shape and curvature, as well as how it was adorned with blossoms that complemented the distinct colour of the leaves.

What does it mean to you to be included in this exhibition?

I am very grateful to be included in this exhibition. It will be the first exhibition that I have been asked to participate in since leaving education, and I am sure that it will be an invaluable experience that can give me the encouragement to start my artistic career.



Emma Bush

United Kingdom

Magnolia, Falling Apart and Bursting Open

Oil paint on canvas

The magnolia (Magnolia grandiflora) flower's life cycle begins with a bursting bud, and leads to a fully open bloom, emerging like a butterfly from its cocoon. As the flower ages, the graceful departure of its petals and bracts leaves the deep crimson stamens exposed. The ripening fruit eventually drops its seed, beginning the cycle all over again.

Sale price: £600

Voting number: 41



Some of Emma's earliest memories growing up are of visiting gardens in the local Sussex countryside, and being submerged in the natural world. She began recording what she saw at an early age (initially with poster paints and crayons) but it was during the pandemic and a time of slower living where she learnt the true joy of taking the time to record the unique intricacies of individual plant specimens. It was also during this time that Emma began to post more of her 'jam jar' garden flower oil paintings on instagram (which is where she later heard about the competition). She has since had the opportunity to exhibit her work in London with various societies. Today, as well as practising botanical art, her fascination with the plant world has led to a developing interest in horticulture. Gardening and growing her own cut flowers has become another great passion, and she has been volunteering at a local garden to learn more about this. Seeing how a plant grows and exists in the wider ecosystem of a garden provides Emma with a stronger connection to, and understanding of it when it comes to capturing it on canvas.

What inspired you to choose your subject material?

I chose the magnolia as my subject for the competition as I find its development throughout the winter months particularly captivating. The way the plant forms fleece-like bud scale shells to house the developing flowers and fruit is a joy to spot in the depth of February. I have memories of looking at the fluffy buds of magnolias as a child and wanting to stroke them!

What does it mean to you to be included in this exhibition?

To be a part of this exhibition at Kew means so much to me, especially having grown up living close to Kew's garden at Wakehurst, which is a special place where I have many happy memories, and still visit often today. It will be wonderful to see my painting sit alongside such talent on the walls of the Shirley Sherwood Gallery.

Instagram: @emmabushartist



Ginko Begel

United States

***Tilia americana* Twig**

Graphite on paper

One morning at work, as I was walking into the building, this twig caught my eye. I told myself that if it was still there when I left, I would draw it. Sure enough, it was. I thought the balance of the twig and lichen was beautiful and chose graphite as a sensitive and versatile medium that complemented the twig's personality.

Not for sale

Voting number: 23



How did you hear about the exhibition?

I was looking around for different science illustration competitions to enter but also saw the posting in a Discord group run by my university's science illustration club (I am still part of it despite having graduated)

Were you a keen artist before the competition?

Yes! I've always done art since I was little and have always had a massive interest in the natural world. When I learned that scientific illustrators were 'a thing', It really opened my eyes to a whole world of new possibilities.

Was this your first piece of botanical art?

I've always drawn plants and animals but I started producing more 'formal' botanical pieces in 2018.

What was the inspiration for this piece?

I feel that lichen and the smaller parts of nature, like sticks, are under-appreciated! They are an intricate and beautiful part of what makes up a whole and deserve their own spotlight every now and then. I also had always admired the lichen growing on this particular tree, and when I saw a twig had fallen off it felt right to draw it.

How do you feel about being in our exhibition?

Honestly, it feels a bit like a dream. It's one thing to validate yourself as an artist and know your skill, but when others see your craft for what hard work you've put into honing it, it's always nice. I feel this is the first step through the door of getting myself out there in the botanical and scientific illustration field. Not only that, but I am finally jumping off and visiting Europe - which I've always wanted to do - because of making it into this gallery. In short terms, I think what this means to me is excitement, nervousness, connections with other artists, and affirmation of the hard work and effort it took to get here.

Instagram: @bagelprince **Twitter:** Bagelprince_ **Website:** <https://bagelprince.wixsite.com/portfolio>

Ginko Begel

United States

Hummingbird in Tulip Poplar

Watercolour on paper

I often illustrate birds and like to pair them with plants, especially plants they feed from or have a special relationship with. The ruby-throated hummingbird is a regular visitor to my garden, and I felt it was appropriate to include one in a painting alongside this tree. I feel the two make a nice pair and herald the summer season.

Not for sale

Voting number: 29



How did you hear about the exhibition?

I was looking around for different science illustration competitions to enter but also saw the posting in a Discord group run by my university's science illustration club (I am still part of it despite having graduated)

Were you a keen artist before the competition?

Yes! I've always done art since I was little and have always had a massive interest in the natural world. When I learned that scientific illustrators were 'a thing', It really opened my eyes to a whole world of new possibilities.

Was this your first piece of botanical art?

I've always drawn plants and animals but I started producing more 'formal' botanical pieces in 2018.

What was your inspiration for this piece?

When planning this piece, I was in my final year of university and missing home. It was the year after Covid lockdowns so I was back on campus. I was thinking of Spring and how the tulip poplar trees where I live would be in bloom soon and the hummingbirds would be darting around. I knew I wanted a strong framing in the piece with equal balance and focus on both the tree and hummingbird. The decision to pair these two subjects together was because of their relationship to each other. The hummingbird is a pollinator for the tree, and the tree is a source of food for the bird.

How do you feel about being in our exhibition?

Honestly, it feels a bit like a dream. It's one thing to validate yourself as an artist and know your skill, but when others see your craft for what hard work you've put into honing it, it's always nice. I feel this is the first step through the door of getting myself out there in the botanical and scientific illustration field. Not only that, but I am finally jumping off and visiting Europe - which I've always wanted to do - because of making it into this gallery. In short terms, I think what this means to me is excitement, nervousness, connections with other artists, and affirmation of the hard work and effort it took to get here.

Instagram: @bagelprince

Twitter: Bagelprince_

Website: <https://bagelprince.wixsite.com/portfolio>

Marguerite Babian-Dumuys
France

***Magnolia grandiflora* Fruit**
Watercolour on paper

*Coming from a more animal-focused painting background, I enjoyed portraying the fruit and branch of this magnolia tree (*Magnolia grandiflora*) that I used to climb in my grandparents' garden. I particularly liked the leathery texture of its leaves.*

Sale price: £900
Voting number: 13



Marguerite Babian-Dumuys lives in Paris and works in facilitating agricultural transition. She grew up in a big city but was and is lucky to be able to regularly spend time in the countryside, in an old family house. That's where her sensitivity to nature and beauty comes from, and for her, the two are very closely linked. That's where she spent the first two lockdowns, in spring and autumn, and she took full advantage of the slower pace of life to contemplate the arrival of the seasons in the large garden, and to put her recent knowledge of botany into practice. Both her parents paint for pleasure, her father in gouache and her mother in watercolour, so Marguerite soon began to imitate them. They paint mostly landscapes but she started with animals, then portraits, then plants and landscapes. Next were quick sketches in ballpoint pen or watercolour and then she explored digital. Marguerite started out as a consultant in Paris, but she intends to live 'several lives in one' by also working as an illustrator and farmer... or all 3 at the same time!

How did you hear about the exhibition?

My mother had taken part in a botanical painting competition and her work had been exhibited in London in 2022 (*Plantae*, Society of Botanical Artists at the Mall Gallery). As we are both into botanical gardens, we took the opportunity to visit Kew Gardens and The Shirley Sherwood Gallery.

Were you a keen artist before the competition?

Yes, I was already an amateur painter before I knew about the competition.

Was this your first piece of botanical art?

It is indeed my first piece of botanical art.

What was your inspiration for this piece?

Coming from a more animal-focused painting background, I enjoyed portraying the fruit and branch of this magnolia tree that I used to climb in my grandparents' garden. I particularly liked the leathery texture of its leaves.

How do you feel about being in our exhibition?

As a nature enthusiast, I am honoured to display my work in Kew Gardens, even if temporarily. This place has inspired me since my first visit last year and I am looking forward to seeing my painting exhibited next to renowned artists.



Instagram: @margueritebabian_art

Marie Aimée Allard

France

Sycamore Growth and Form

Charcoal, black chalk and
watercolour ink on paper

This composition was made from direct observations of specimens collected in the forest at the end of winter. I made sketches to understand the structures, patterns and textures and chose charcoal because of its strength and softness. I felt the medium perfectly represented the state of the bud – so fragile and full of hope for the new generation.

Sale price: £900

Voting number: 22



Marie Aimée Allard is an illustrator committed to the communication of scientific knowledge. Her love for, and interest in, nature pushed her toward an academic education in natural sciences. She then turned professionally to scientific illustration during her Masters at the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris. From now on, she wishes to work on the valorisation of cultural heritage, from protected scientific collections to the most degraded environments. Marie developed a very strong interest in botany, both scientific and artistic, during her Masters, but she continues to - and wishes to - illustrate other fields, such as zoology and palaeontology. She discovered charcoal just over a year ago and has found it irresistible as a medium. She appreciates how it forces her to take time and focus on detail.

How did you hear about the Young Botanical Artist exhibition?

I saw the announcement for this competition on Instagram; I follow a lot of content related to natural sciences and drawing, as well as news from major institutions.

Were you a keen artist before you learned about the competition?

I've been drawing for a long time, but I discovered botanical drawing a year and a half ago.

Was this your first piece of botanical art?

I've already produced a number of botanical illustrations, such as plates for articles and watercolours for exhibitions. However, a work of this kind, combining such contrasting mediums and without any guidance, is a first for me.

What inspired you to choose your subject material?

Influenced by the work of Karl Blossfeldt and Charles Jones, I tried to show a botanical object in its most graphic form, with the contrast and power of black and white. I wanted to combine the strength of charcoal with the delicacy of white ink, with a strong element in the centre surrounded by more subdued details. I picked up these sycamore maple fruits on a walk in the forest and the geometry and texture immediately inspired me to do this work.

What does it mean to you to be included in this exhibition?

I am extremely grateful to be able to participate in an exhibition surrounded by equally talented young illustrators. Kew Gardens is a place I've always wanted to visit but never had the chance and this is an incredible opportunity, professionally as well as personally, to expand my perception of botanical art and walk through the door of Kew as an artist.



Instagram: @marieaallard

Tabby Taberer

United Kingdom

Ginkgo biloba

Acrylic and coloured
pencil on paper

The ginkgo (Ginkgo biloba) tree is the last living species in the order Ginkgoales and it inhabits an isolated taxonomic position. As a scientist, I enjoy natural history illustrations and wanted to encapsulate the entire tree, from its pollen and seed to the fan-shaped leaves that change to vibrant yellow in autumn, as well as the complete form with its long, wispy branches.

Not for sale

Voting number: 31



How did you hear about the Young Botanical Artist exhibition?

Upon seeing an advert for the Young Botanical Artist competition which was emailed around my university department, I felt immediately inspired to sketch out an idea for a piece of botanical art as a gift for my partner. I then decided to enter the piece into the competition.

Were you a keen artist before you learned about the competition?

I have always loved nature and pursued a career in biological sciences, where I am fortunate enough to spend each day exploring and researching the wonders of our natural world. I studied art in school, but in recent years I have not managed to put aside much time to paint.

What inspired you to choose your subject material?

As a taxonomist, I wanted to paint the Ginkgo tree as it is incredibly unique and holds a very isolated position in nature. I absolutely love scientific illustrations, so composing a piece that captured multiple aspects of the tree felt important to me and my career.

What does it mean to you to be included in this exhibition?

I had never tried botanical art before so this was a really fun challenge to take on, and I feel extremely honoured to have my work displayed at the Shirley Sherwood Gallery!



Peiyao Yang

United Kingdom

Tree Annual Growth Ring

Pencil on paper

The annual growth ring is an essential part of the tree and records lifespan, local climate and distinct growth. Ring patterns help researchers, scientists, artists and other practitioners to respond to environmental studies, archaeology and climate studies. Accompanying a tree through its life, they tell its story from start to finish.

Not for sale

Voting number: 44



Peiyao Yang is a Chinese artist currently based in England and China. Her mediums and practices were mainly based on illustration, graphic design, claymation, installation, publication, handicrafts, headwear, facewear, and creative content creation. In 2021, Peiyao started her new art journey at Central Saint Martins. She has broadened her visuals with styling, makeup, digital platforms, art direction, and animation. Now, Peiyao is a freelance artist who has collaborated with fashion shows, photography, film, performance, and magazines. By utilising these mediums, she intends to focus more on nature, folk and ethnic culture, historical culture, myths, and Chinese opera.

How did you hear about the Young Botanical Artist exhibition?

I saw it on The Shirley Sherwood Collection website.

Were you a keen artist before you learned about the competition?

Yes, I am a freelance artist.

Was this your first piece of botanical art?

Nature is my big obsession. I have loved illustrating, and drawing plants and animals since I was little - but this is my first official piece of botanical art.

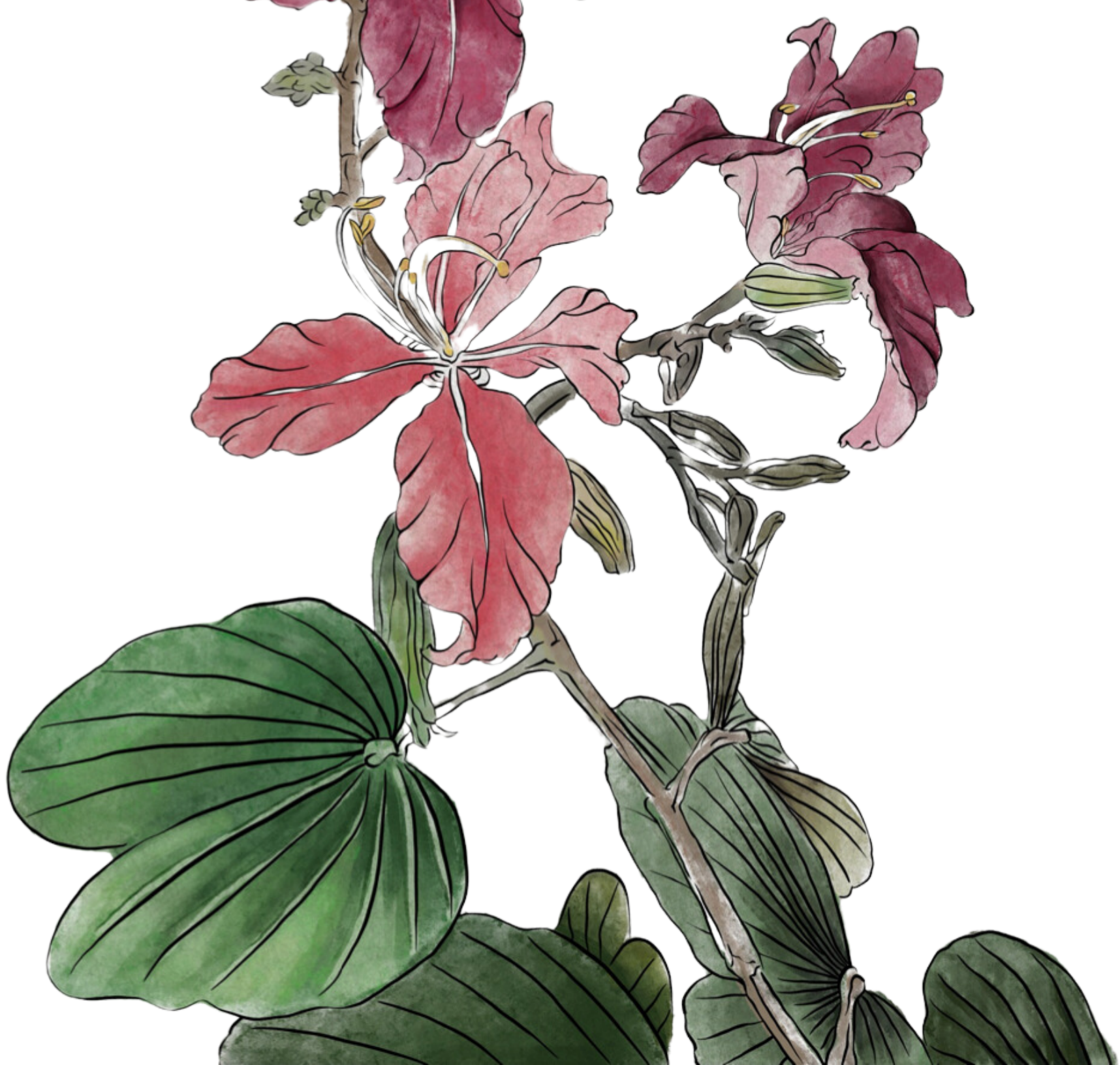
What inspired you to choose your subject material?

The tree is such a powerful and vital plant. It records time and energy ... I want to use a tree annual ring to show its history and life.

What does it mean to you to be included in this exhibition?

Exhibiting my artwork at the Shirley Sherwood Gallery is a wonderful experience for me. This competition provides a great opportunity and connection for the younger generation to express their interests in botanical art and the creative realm. As there are not many botanical art events for young people, I really appreciate this exhibition; it builds up a global and artistic platform for myself and other young artists.

Instagram: @seckelyang





DIGITAL

Fahmi Irwan Utomo

Indonesia

Divine Obsession

Digital Print, Adobe Photoshop

Medieval Europe's craving for South Asian spices has shaped Indonesia. One of the most revered spices was the clove, a red flower spice distinctive in aroma and taste. For this piece, I conducted extensive research into the plant and its different traits before creating various sketches that led to my chosen composition. I used digital painting on the Wacom pen tablet to capture the colour palette and textures – a device that offers the natural feel and ease of pen and paper.

Sale Price: £350

Voting number: 48



Fahmi Irwan Utomo is a botanical artist and graphic designer based in Batu, East Java, Indonesia. He graduated with a Bachelor of Art in Visual Communication Design from the State University of Malang in 2020, where his fascination for illustration and editorial design grew. After working on several illustration commissions, he worked in a number of companies, including an ornamental plant nursery as a graphic designer. He became interested in botanical art after attending a free workshop in one of the illustration communities. In early 2022, he joined the Indonesian Society of Botanical Artists and began to learn botanical art.

How did you hear about the Young Botanical Artist exhibition?

I heard about the Young Botanical Artist competition through my friend, and it was suggested on my feed on Instagram. The desire to participate in such a prestigious competition was so strong that I decided to enter.

Were you a keen artist before you learned about the competition?

So far, I can't call myself a keen artist because I still consider myself a beginner.

Was this your first piece of botanical art?

This is not my first piece of botanical art, but it is a successful outcome of my 107 experiments of botanical art in various media.

What inspired you to choose your subject material?

My love for exploration and experimentation is my basis for creating unique artworks. Most of my peers were working on children's book illustration, editorial illustration and character illustration with digital painting, so I thought, why not botanical art? I tried digital painting and produced a few experimental pieces. You may laugh if you saw my early works, but for me, it means that trial and error can help me develop and improve my skills.

What does it mean to you to be included in this exhibition?

I have learnt a lot from this experience and hopefully improved my skills. I hope to encourage enthusiasm within the younger generation for botanical art, so that it becomes better known and more popular, especially in my country and with young artists experimenting with new media.

Instagram: @fahmiirwanu



Qilong Chen

China

Bauhinia, My Nostalgia

Digital print, Procreate®

This evergreen is the flower of my hometown, Zhanjiang, where it represents love and harmony. As a child, I walked through streets adorned with these 'orchid trees' (Bauhinia), so I have included a Chinese poem expressing nostalgia for my homeland in this work. I used the iPad application Procreate® to generate this piece and adopted traditional Chinese realistic painting techniques.

Not for sale

Voting number: 45



Qilong Chen is a graduating senior studying design and is anxious about his upcoming career. Painting makes him feel peaceful, and it just so happens that when he found out about this contest, he had just finished painting this piece, which was also an assignment for one of his college classes.

How did you hear about the Young Botanical Artist exhibition?

I learned about this competition on the internet.

Were you a keen artist before you learned about the competition?

I'm a design student - so technically, yes.

Was this your first piece of botanical art?

Yes, this is my first piece of botanical art.

What inspired you to choose your subject material?

I love the convenience and easiness of digital media, especially procreate.

What does it mean to you to be included in this exhibition?

It is an honour to display my work in the Shirley Sherwood Gallery. It makes all my efforts worthwhile.



Carolina M Correia

Portugal

Maclura pomifera

Digital montage

This is a representation of the different botanical structures of the Osage orange tree (*Maclura pomifera*). The composition shows the tree habit, the male and female flowers and the fruit. The composition was created digitally from two original drawings in graphite pencil and powder on polyester film, one of which is displayed on the gallery wall.

Sale Price: £260

Voting number: 49



Carolina was born in 1998 in Alcobaça, a small city in the central region of Portugal. She studied Biology and Sciences in high school and has a Bachelor's degree in Drawing from the Faculty of Fine Arts at the University of Lisbon. She attended a course in Scientific Illustration (Natural Drawing Course) at the National Museum of Natural History and Science, MNHNC Lisbon, Portugal and is currently one of the participating artists in the Illustrare exhibition at MNHNC Lisbon. She has been a member of the printmaking collective, 'People of Print', since 2021. She contributed with illustrations for the info plaques of the Lisbon Botanical Gardens (2020) and is an author of a mural included in the project 'Provincere - Caminho Cultural de Cabril' (Gerês - 2020). She currently works as a freelance scientific illustrator and printmaker artist in Austria and manages an online shop for her prints.

How did you hear about the Young Botanical Artist exhibition?

I heard about it through social media when I saw an announcement about the contest on the Guild of Natural Science Illustrator's Facebook page.

Were you a keen artist before you learned about the competition?

Definitely! I have been practising and learning Scientific Illustration for six years now and am working towards taking it up professionally. I always had an inclination and fascination for both Biology and Art, so it was natural for me to start combining the two and exploring the world of Scientific Illustration. Later, while developing my portfolio, I found a special interest in Botanic and have been delving into Botanical Art ever since.

Was this your first piece of botanical art?

No, I have done a few other pieces before. Botanical Art is my main area of interest, so most of my scientific illustrations done so far fall in that category.

What inspired you to choose your subject material?

It all started as a project at the end of my Scientific Illustration course. We had a list of species from the Lisbon Botanical Garden and the *Maclura pomifera* tree really called to me because of its intricate structures. I saw it as a challenge and decided to try to represent the difficult structures as best I could.

What does it mean to you to be included in this exhibition?

This exhibition (and the contest itself) is an absolute honour, especially for young artists who are starting out in the art world. As I am still starting my professional journey as an artist, the visibility this exhibition can bring is incredibly valuable and a motivator to keep working hard on my skills and new projects.



Instagram: @carolina.m.correia.art or

@carolina.m.correia.print

Tick Tock: carolinasprintstudio

Facebook: carolina.m.correia.art

Sophie Leven

UK

The London Plane Tree

Digital print, Adobe Photoshop

This is the most common tree in London and it provides improved air quality, combating pollution. The species is a key example of plants adapting to urban environments by surviving in small spaces and peeling away their bark to remove parasites. My hand-drawn ink illustration focuses on the mathematical patterning of elements such as seed heads and buds, and I added colour with a digital brush.

Not for sale

Voting number: 47

London Plane Tree

Platanus x hispanica



Sophie Leven is an illustrator and surface pattern designer with a passion for nature and a commitment to raising awareness about endangered species. She is currently based in Chelmsford, UK and recently graduated with a First Class Honours in BA Illustration from Norwich University of the Arts. Sophie's artistic journey has led her to specialise in combining traditional ink illustrations, watercolour, and digital expertise through Adobe Suite, to bring the beauty of the natural world to life. Driven by a deep passion for the environment, Sophie's subject matter predominantly revolves around plants and animals. Through her artwork, she aims to raise awareness about the need for conservation by showing the beauty of the species on our planet.

How did you hear about the Young Botanical Artist exhibition?

I saw the competition advertised when I visited the Shirley Sherwood Gallery in Kew Gardens.

Were you a keen artist before you learned about the competition?

I have been a keen artist my whole life and always knew I would pursue a career where I could utilise my passion for art. I developed my art practice during A-Level Art and then further advanced my skills in my BA Illustration degree.

Was this your first piece of botanical art?

I have always loved drawing plants as a subject matter. After writing my dissertation, I learned about the technicalities of botanical and natural history illustration, which inspired me to start illustrating 'traditional' botanical art. As I developed my understanding of this art practice, I experimented with amalgamating digital and traditional media to give the genre a modern twist.

What inspired you to choose your subject material?

I was inspired by our need to reconnect with nature and look out for the species that surround us every day, such as the London Plane Tree. The adaptability and strength of nature, even when facing urbanisation and climate change was also a key inspiration for this piece.

What does it mean to you to be included in this exhibition?

Dr Shirley Sherwood's beautiful collection of botanical art serves as a significant inspiration and motivation to me, and it is a dream come true to have a piece of my own work exhibited in the Shirley Sherwood Gallery in Kew Gardens.



Emma Morris

UK

Holly Tree Branch

Digital print, Procreate®

Inspired by the holly tree (Ilex) that grows in my garden, I decided to create a digital print of one of its branches. I started by sketching the branch and used Procreate® on my iPad to capture the multiple shades of green on the leaves as well as the way they reflect the light.

Sale Price: £100

Voting number: 46



Emma Morris 2023

Based in Coventry for life and study, Emma Morris enjoys using an experimental approach to create artwork inspired by nature. After studying art for one of her A-levels and completing a Fine Art degree, she is passionate about creating art using traditional methods as well as technology to enhance her work. In her spare time, Emma enjoys volunteering in a local art gallery, as well as helping with artistic events in the community. She is looking forward to exploring the route of teaching when she has completed her degree and cannot wait to get involved in creative opportunities in the future to grow her career as an artist.

How did you hear about the Young Botanical Artist exhibition?

I heard about the competition through an advert on social media.

Were you a keen artist before you learned about the competition?

I have always been very keen to create artwork during my free time as well as in my studies.

Was this your first piece of botanical art?

Although most of my artwork is themed around nature, this piece is one of my first botanical drawings.

What inspired you to choose your subject material?

I used the holly tree in my garden as a reference, I felt inspired after watching the tree grow and I wanted to capture the many interesting shades of green.

What does it mean to you to be included in this exhibition?

To be included in this exhibition is of great importance to me. I am delighted to exhibit in The Shirley Sherwood Gallery and I cannot wait to see how this will influence my artwork in the future.

Instagram: @emartist25



Xinyu Zhang

United Kingdom

***Prunus serrulata* Lindl.**

Digital print, Procreate®

*This digital painting was inspired by the cherry trees (*Prunus serrulata*) I see while walking my border collie. I arrived in the UK from China eight years ago and the trees have become a symbol of the passing of time as I watch the blooms come and go. Using a reference photo, I created a drawing and used Procreate® to complete the work.*



Sale price: £160

Voting number: 50

Xinyu is 17 and studying art as one of her A-levels at King's College School, Wimbledon. She's currently focused on the theme of technological evolution and human ingenuity. Her fascination for the fusion of art and machine has led her to experiment with digital art and explore the work of other Procreate artists on Instagram. Xinyu finds the outcome of this medium extremely aesthetically pleasing. Her personal journey with digital drawing apps began during lockdown when she found herself with a sudden burst of motivation for creating and sharing fan art of her favourite pop stars. From then on, she has been inseparable from her apple pencil and has gone on to make one of her GCSE final pieces on Procreate as well as photoshopping digital collages for her current A-level coursework.

How did you hear about the Young Botanical Artist exhibition?

I was set this competition as part of our holiday homework, along with the rest of my class.

Were you a keen artist before you learned about the competition?

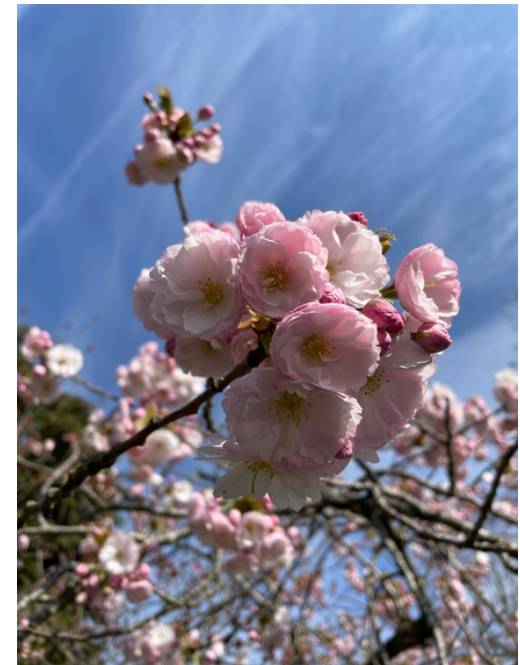
Yes, as clichée as it sounds, I have been drawing all my life.

Was this your first piece of botanical art?

For my GCSE coursework, we studied Marianne North and responded to her artworks with acrylic drawings of flowers. But this is the first time I have drawn flora in a 'botanical style' as the previous pieces came out fairly abstracted with thick strokes and exaggerated colours. Before this, I found portraits or figures more rewarding to draw.

What does it mean to you to be included in this exhibition?

This is my first time showing my artwork in part of an out-of-school exhibition, so it feels more rewarding as I have had to earn it.





We would like to thank all those who entered. It was a pleasure judging your work and we hope the opportunity inspires you to continue your botanical art.

Thank you to Seawhite of Brighton for gifting art bundles to our winners and People's Choice artist.

To our panel of judges, we owe a huge debt of gratitude as this exhibition would not have been possible without your expertise. Dr. Shirley Sherwood would like to thank the following:



Laura Giuffrida
Úrsula Romero
Mieko Ishikawa
Lucy T. Smith
Svetlana Lanse
Gustavo Surlo
Susan Ogilvy
Vicki Thomas
Denise Ramsay



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