

For Immediate Release:

**THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF NEW YORK &
THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF BOTANICAL ARTISTS**

present

THE TWELFTH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL JURIED BOTANICAL ART EXHIBITION

September 16 – November 24, 2009

OPENING RECEPTION

Wednesday, September 16, from 6:00 to 8:00pm

**The Horticultural Society of New York
148 West 37th Street, 13th Floor
New York, NY 10018**

The Twelfth Annual International Juried Botanical Art Exhibition, on view at The Horticultural Society of New York (HSNY), features a juried selection of works from The American Society of Botanical Artists (ASBA). For the past twelve years, the show has been co-sponsored by the two cultural non-profits and has become the premier venue for showcasing contemporary botanical art.

Selected from a field of 185 submissions, by jurors Francesca Anderson, Carol E. Hamilton, and Dick Rauh, the forty-one artworks in the exhibition have been created by artists from the United States, Australia, Canada, and the United Kingdom. It is evidence that botanical art continues to be a vibrant and evolving art form, and increasingly relevant in these times of environmental change. With scientific accuracy, the artworks in the exhibition depict a range of plants, including common garden flowers, edible plants, and wild species.

Artists have always been inspired by the seasonal harvest, and in this exhibition we have a variety of beets, mushrooms, onions, squash, and tomatoes. Asuka Hishiki celebrates the resurgence and abundance of heirloom vegetables in her two watercolors, “Baby Heirloom Tomatoes” and “Fava Beans.” Tomatoes, ripe and luscious, are also Gillian Harris’s heirloom choice in “Cherokee Purple Tomatoes”. Two depictions of figs show how artists can have differing relationships with their subjects: Katherine Manisco’s watercolor, “Green Figs,” includes branches, leaves, and figs on the branch and off, while Deirdre Bean’s focus is a closer one, with just two figs – one whole and the other cut open, revealing the pink flesh and tiny seeds. A muscular, weighty head of “Radicchio,” painted in oil on paper by Ingrid Finnan is filled with life and color.

There are flowers as well, and this year’s crop is colorful and varied. A brilliant “Camellia” with glossy leaves is a standout in watercolor by Akiko Enokido. No one in contemporary botanical art depicts color as adventurously as Jean Emmons. Her watercolor on vellum, “Dianthus,” provides her with ample opportunity to explore, and invites the viewer to share that exploration. A blue-violet “Stock” appears lush and graceful on vellum by Karen Kluglein, and the southwestern desert is recalled in Joan McGann’s colored pencil drawing of “Chainfruit Cholla Cactus.” One of four orchids in the exhibition, “Slipper Orchid,” a watercolor by John Pastoriza-Pinol resembles a filigreed jewel, with both flower and leaves richly patterned.

Botanical artists are continually fascinated by North America’s wild plants. This year’s subjects include “Mayapple” by Dianne McElwain, “Rocky Mountain Maple” by Margaret Best, and “Tree Mallow” by Cherie Ann Gossett – all watercolors. “Common Milkweed” is illustrated by two artists: Derek Norman’s energetic rendering is this year’s only pen and ink drawing, and Betsy Rogers-Knox arranges the seasonal progression of the same plant in a circle.

A full-color catalog of the exhibition has been published and will be available for purchase at the exhibition and through the ASBA’s website (see below).

The American Society of Botanical Artists has a membership of over 1,000 from the United States and 16 other countries. Its mission is to promote public awareness of botanical art, its historical foundations, and its growth into the new millennium.

Founded in 1900, The Horticultural Society of New York’s mission is to improve the quality of life for New Yorkers through its gallery, library, community outreach, and educational programs. As a cultural institution, HSNY’s Exhibitions Program encourages a public appreciation and understanding of fine art in the realm of horticulture. This is a unique exhibitions program dedicated to showing painting, sculpture, drawing, photography, video, and other works specifically created around the ideas and tenets of horticulture.

The Gallery at The Horticultural Society of New York is open Monday to Friday, from 10am – 6pm. The exhibition will remain on view through November 24, 2009. This exhibition coincides with an exhibition at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden of artworks by the members of the UK-based Chelsea Physic Garden Florilegium Society.

For further information, please contact:

HSNY at 212-757-0915 x121 / hsny@hsny.org / www.hsny.org

ASBA at 866-691-9080 / www.AmSocBotArtists.org