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AMERICAN

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COLLECTOR



## **UPCOMING GROUP SHOW**

Up to 43 works April 20-July 31, 2011 New York Botanical Garden Bronx River Pkwy at Fordham Road Bronx, NY 10458 (718) 817-8700

## Green currency

he inaugural triennial exhibition of original contemporary botanical works, *Green Currency: Plants in the Economy*, will be held at the New York Botanical Garden April 20 to July 31. The juried exhibition, curated by the American Society of Botanical Artists (ASBA), features works that depict plants of economic significance such as those used for medicine, food, clothing and shelter.

Dr. Shirley Sherwood, botanist, author, botanical art collector and gallery owner, will lead the team of award jurors. Gold, silver and bronze medals for excellence will be handed out by the New York Botanical Garden.

Dr. Sherwood says of the event, "I am very impressed with the high quality of the works chosen. This is an unusual, fascinating and thought-provoking exhibition."

ASBA member artists from around the United States and six other countries will be participating in the show including Bobbi Angell, milly acharya, Dorothy DePaulo, Monika de Vries Gohlke, Akiko Enokido, Esther Klahne, Karen Kluglein, and Carrie Megan, among others. The 43 juried works are in a variety of mediums such as watercolor, colored pencil, graphite and oil.

Artist Esther Klahne started her painting of cotton at the 2009 ASBA Conference in Phoenix when she took a half-day class on *Painting White*.

"Various 'white' specimens were brought in for us to choose from and I instantly gravitated toward the cotton branch," says Klahne. "I carried the cutting back to Massachusetts and by the time I finished the painting, what were once vibrant green pods had split open to reveal the precious fiber within."

For the show, Karen Kluglein's work focuses on the natural beauty of corn.

"I live on the eastern end of Long Island, New York, where fields of sweet corn are plentiful," explains Kluglein. "When designing the composition of this painting, I tried to display movement in the leaves and corn silk as if it were still in the field getting blown by the wind. I felt that the inherently unique pattern of the calfskin it is painted on added to the earthy, natural beauty of this painting of



milly acharya, Foxglove, Digitalis purpurea/D. Lutea, watercolor, 20 x 11"



KAREN KLUGLEIN, CORN, ZEA MAYS, WATERCOLOR ON VELLUM, 16 X 14"



Akiko Enokido, Pomegranate, Punica Granatum, Watercolor, 16 x 11"

corn-one of our most basic staple foods."

Botanical illustrator milly acharya created a work of foxglove for the exhibition.

"I chose to contrast the common purple with the less showy yellow Digitalis to highlight the many differences between them," muses acharya. "Delicate or decorative, though plants may appear, they are capable of destroying or restoring life and the foxglove is a perfect example of both."

For the exhibition, Akiko Enokido submitted *Pomegranate*, a work from a series of tree flowers she is painting.

"As with the other work of this theme, I wanted to capture the transition from flower to fruit," explains Enokido. "Countless seeds that appear when you cut open the fruit look grotesque at first, but then you cannot help being fascinated by the fact that this complex and mysterious structure was born from those small delicate flowers."

For a direct link to the exhibiting gallery go to

