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HUNT INSTITUTE PRESENTS

What We Collect: Recent Art Acquisitions, 2007–2012

22 March to 30 June 2013

Pittsburgh, PA—This selection of recent acquisitions to the Art Department of the Hunt Institute, from the early 19th century through the present, will be placed in the context of the Institute's collection practices and the history of botanical illustration. Whether working alongside botanists for scientific and horticultural publications or preparing artworks for collectors, galleries or commercial use, artists throughout the centuries have added their individual perspectives to portraying plants and have made lasting contributions to the botanical record and the history of art.

Images of plants, sometimes including details and cross-sections, will appeal to the generalist attracted to the contemplative beauty of plants, the naturalist interested in the intricacy of plant structure or the artist inspired by the inherent design in nature. These artworks have been used to illustrate floras, monographs, scientific or horticultural journals or have been prepared for exhibitions. Included will be original illustrations for an early-19th-century botanical handbook and its contemporary, the field guide; a 19th-century classroom wall chart and the modern text book; a 20th-century seed packet and a booklet on seedling identification; a 20th-century monograph on the mistletoe genus and a journal article on marine fungi; drawings and watercolors illustrated by research botany professors; independent projects on floras of a region, native and medicinal plants and plants and their pollinators; and recent botanical artworks by artists previously represented in Hunt Institute's *International Exhibition of Art & Illustration*. Mediums represented are watercolor on paper and vellum; ink, graphite and charcoal drawing; printmaking techniques: copper etching, wood engraving, vitreography and nature printing; and gelatin silver photography.

The artists working before 1900 include Pancrace Bessa (1772–1846), Sydenham Edwards (1769?–1819), Will Kilburn (1745–1818), James Sowerby (1757–1822), William Jackson Hooker (1785–1865), W. A. Meyn (19th-century), Powe (18th-century) and Christian Schkuhr (1741–1811). The contemporary artists featured include Bobbie Angell, Wendy Brockman, John Cody, Felicity Rose Cole, Carolyn Crawford, Paul Dobe (1880–1965), John Doughty, Beverly Duncan, Josephine Elwes Ewes, Alison Gianangeli, Janice Glimn-Lacy, Audrey Hardcastle, Lizzie Harper, Christina Hart-Davies, Lyn Hayden, Richard Homala (1934–2009), Brigitte Kohlmeyer, Job Kuijt, Donelda LaBrake, Peter Loewer, Rogers McVaugh (1912–2009), Susan G. Monden, Cindy Nelson-Nold (1957–2009), Susan Ogilvy, Kandis Phillips, Alfred Putz (1892–1966), Mary Rankin, Thomas Reaume, Eugeni Sierra-Ràfols (1919–1999), Eva Stockhaus, Jessica Tcherepnine, Julia Trickey, Denise Walser Kolar, John Wilkinson and Sun Yingbao.

As always, Curator of Art Eugene B. Bruno will be available to answer questions about the exhibition. To arrange an interview, please contact us (412-268-2434; huntinst@andrew.cmu.edu). Exhibition publicity images for publication are available upon request.

Open House 2013

In conjunction with *What We Collect: Recent Art Acquisitions, 2007–2012*, the Hunt Institute will hold its annual Open House on 23 and 24 June. We will offer talks, tours and opportunities to meet one-on-one with our staff to ask questions and see items in the collections. On 23 June Curator of Art Lugene B. Bruno will present “Botanical wall charts” about the Hunt Institute’s collection of instructional wall charts that were produced in Europe and circulated around the world from the late 19th to the early 20th centuries. On 24 June in “From field to folio: Stories behind botanical publications” Assistant Librarian Jeannette McDevitt will display some of Hunt Institute’s special items and speak about the dramas, disasters and absurdities that went on behind the scenes before these beautiful books could come to fruition. We encourage everyone to consider visiting us during this Open House. It will be a good time to see the exhibition before it closes and to have an inside look at our collections and our work. A schedule of events is available on our Web site. We are looking forward to your visit.

Hours

The exhibition will be on display on the 5th floor of the Hunt Library building at Carnegie Mellon University and will be open to the public free of charge. Hours: Monday–Friday, 9 A.M.–noon and 1–5 P.M.; Sunday, 1–4 P.M. (except 29–31 March, 5 May and 26–27 May). Because our hours of operation are occasionally subject to change, please call or email before your visit to confirm. For further information, contact the Hunt Institute at 412-268-2434.

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library’s activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library. The current collections include approximately 30,150 book and serial titles; 29,000+ portraits; 29,270 watercolors, drawings and prints; 243,000+ data files; and 2,000 autograph letters and manuscripts. The Archives specializes in biographical information about, portraits of and handwriting samples from scientists, illustrators and all others in the plant sciences. The Archives is a repository of alternate resort and as such has collected over 300 institutional and individual archival collections that may not have otherwise found an easy fit at another institution. Including artworks dating from the Renaissance, the Art Department’s collection now focuses on contemporary botanical art and illustration, where the coverage is unmatched. The Art Department organizes and stages exhibitions, including the triennial *International Exhibition of Botanical Art & Illustration*. The Bibliography Department maintains comprehensive data files on the history and bibliography of botanical literature. Known for its collection of historical works on botany dating from the late 1400s to the present, the Library’s collection focuses on the development of botany as a science and also includes herbals (eight are incunabula), gardening manuals and florilegia, many of them pre-Linnaean. Modern taxonomic monographs, floristic works and serials as well as selected works in medical botany, economic botany, landscape architecture and a number of other plant-related topics are also represented.

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