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Hunt Institute will present "Wildflowers of Baker Prairie: Botanical Paintings by Kate Nessler"

Pittsburgh — The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation at Carnegie Mellon University will display "Wildflowers of Baker Prairie: Botanical Paintings by Kate Nessler" from 27 March through 30 May 1997.

Kate Nessler's paintings depict approximately 50 of the wild plants that grow in the Baker Prairie Natural Area, a tract of 71 acres (most of it virgin grassland), in Harrison, Arkansas.

The traveling exhibition is a joint endeavor of Ms. Nessler, the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, and the Arkansas Arts Council. Nessler began painting the prairie wildflowers in April 1993 and completed the last painting in the fall of 1994. In documenting the wildflowers and grasses of the prairie through the seasons, she intended to "create a traveling exhibit for artistic and educational purposes ... [and] increase public awareness of the beauty and fragility of such a prairie."

Kate Nessler lives in Kingston, Arkansas. Throughout her years as a botanical artist, her botanical subjects have included wildflowers, garden bouquets and orchids, and she has won numerous awards, including three gold medals from the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) in London. Both the Hunt Institute and RHS hold Nessler artworks in their permanent collections, and her paintings are also in many private collections around the world.

The Institute is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Telephone (412) 268-2434 for additional information.