

Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation  
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For Immediate Release

HUNT INSTITUTE PRESENTS  
WHAT WE COLLECT: RECENT ART ACQUISITIONS

14 September to 20 December 2006

Pittsburgh, PA—The Hunt Institute continues to acquire watercolors, drawings and prints for our collection of over 30,000 artworks depicting plants on paper and vellum. This selection of 80 recently acquired artworks, ranging from the 17th century through the present, provides an overview of what we collect in the Hunt Institute Art Department. Many of these are scientific drawings of plants showing details and cross-sections; some are horticultural watercolors and prints of flowers, fruits and vegetables; and others depict landscapes or plants in their habitats. These artworks have been used to illustrate floras, monographs, scientific or horticultural journals, or have been prepared for exhibitions. Some of these artists have depicted cultivated, native and endangered plants while others have shown the relationship between plants and their pollinators. There is a selection of intriguing images of slime molds and seaweed that resemble otherworldly plants. Whether working alongside botanists or preparing artworks for collectors, galleries or commercial use, artists throughout the centuries have added their own special perspective to portraying plants.

These artworks came to us via many channels, but chiefly—and fortunately for us—as gifts. Some donations included every illustration for a specific publication while others included additional artworks from artists who have participated in our triennial *International Exhibition of Botanical Art & Illustration*. Sometimes we were given or bequeathed works from earlier centuries or given funds to add to our limited acquisitions budget. This exhibition includes a selection of botanical artworks that we have acquired in recent years but have not had an opportunity to share with the public. Please join us in discovering these important contributions to the record of our natural world.

The artists working before 1900 include Basil Besler (1561–1629); Sydenham Edwards (1769?–1819), Will Kilburn (1745–1818), and James Sowerby (1757–1822); Alice Blanche Ellis and Edith Elizabeth Bull (dates unknown); Giorgio Liberale (ca. mid-16th century) and Wolfgang Meyerpeck (dates unknown); Joseph Prestele (1796–1867); Wilhelm Heinrich (William Henry) Prestele (1838–1895); Pierre-Joseph Redouté (1759–1840); Isaac Sprague (1811–1895); and Pierre Jean François Turpin (1775–1840). The contemporary artists featured include Beverly Allen, Dorothy Osdieck (Mrs. Paul) Allen, Olive Anderson, Gary Alan Bukovnik, Elizabeth Cadman, Richard Carroll, Celia Crampton, Sally Crosthwaite, Etienne Demonte, Anne Ophelia Todd Dowden, Patricia M. Eckel, Jean L. Emmons, Diana Everett, Stephen Fisher, Stephen A. Fredericks, (Mrs.) R. E. Gamble, Janice Glimm-Lacy, Job Kuijt, Stanley Maltzman, Jesse Markman, Suzanne Olive, Dorothy Kate Hughes Popenoe (attr. to), Jaggu Prasad, Wilfred A. Readio, Ann Robertson, Judith Scheidig, Harry Schwalb, Suresh Chand Sharma, Yvonne Skargon, Catherine J. Hanforth Steiner, Henry Stempen, Maria Rita Stirpe, Kazuto Takahashi, Alice Ruth Tangerini, Bronwyn Van de Graaff, Monika E. de Vries Gohlke, Anita Walsmit Sachs, and Carol Woodin.

The exhibition will be on display on the fifth floor of the Hunt Library building at Carnegie Mellon University. Hours: Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–noon and 1–5 p.m.; Sunday, 1–4 p.m. (except 23–26 November, 15 December). The exhibition is open to the public free of charge. 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 founded 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 29,000 books; 25,000 portraits; 30,000 watercolors, drawings and prints; and 2,000 autograph letters and manuscripts. 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*.

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