

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 3, 2024



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Seeds of Inspiration

January 18 – May 20, 2025



Artworks from the collection of Colorado-based seed and garden products company Botanical Interests LLC highlight the unique connection between art and nature in flower, vegetable and herb seed packet design. *Seeds of Inspiration* features 21 contemporary artworks alongside early 20th century garden catalogs, seed boxes and other materials from Denver Botanic Gardens' Helen Fowler Library. On view in the Freyer – Newman Center January 18 – May 20, 2025. Included with Gardens' admission.

The artists use colored pencils, watercolor and watercolor pencils to render highly detailed botanical art. Some artists draw from live specimens provided by Botanical Interests. Because these artworks were made for marketing purposes, they depict plants in their most perfect form with enhanced colors and shapes. Several featured artists are instructors at or former students of the Gardens' School of Botanical Art & Illustration.

ABOUT BOTANICAL INTERESTS LLC

Recently acquired by Epic Gardening Inc, whose mission is to help the world grow, Botanical Interests LLC was founded with a desire to share the beauty, fascination and satisfaction of growing plants from seed. The company has worked with an array of artists to create seed packet illustrations for more than 30 years and holds a collection of more than 500 illustrations in a variety of media.

RELATED PROGRAMS

Art at the Gardens Tour

Select days, dates and times

\$16, \$8 member, \$5 student

Walk through the galleries with a guide who shares stories about the work on display.

Curator Conversations Tour

Select days, dates and times

\$20, \$10 member, \$5 student

Stroll through current art exhibitions in the Freyer - Newman Center galleries with a curatorial staff member. Explore our diverse art exhibitions, which support Denver Botanic Gardens' mission to connect

people to plants, and learn about the artists, artworks and processes during an engaging, interactive conversation.

Botany for the Botanical Illustrator - ONLINE

Six-class series: February 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, 5-7:30 p.m.

\$390, \$330 member

Botanical art improves when the science of the subjects is understood. This basic botany class is designed specifically for artists to gain knowledge about the plant world. Take a close look at plant forms and learn to recognize botanical details to make your drawings more scientifically accurate and realistic.

Seed Packet Design

Three-class series: April 16, 23 & 30, 1-4 p.m.

\$225, \$190 member

Learn to create botanical artwork for use on seed packets. Start by visiting the exhibition *Seeds of Inspiration* in the Bonfils-Stanton gallery. Next, visit the Helen Fowler Library to view the seed catalog collection. Finally, design your own illustration for use on a seed packet with a plant subject and media of your choosing.

Food for Thought: Scientific Illustration's Many Paths- ONLINE

Friday, May 2, noon – 1 p.m.

\$10, Free for members

Liz Edwards, a science illustrator and recent graduate of the California State University Monterey Bay Science Illustration Graduate program, will discuss their art journey and the expansive pathways in science illustration.

Images: Left: Brittany Hass, *King Size Silvery Rose Strawflower*, watercolor and colored pencil, 2024. Artwork © Botanical Interests LLC. **Middle:** Karen Kluglein, *Orange Sun Sweet Pepper*, watercolor, 2020. Artwork © Botanical Interests LLC. **Right:** Karen Kluglein, *Cool Summer Breeze Viola*, watercolor, 2021. Artwork © Botanical Interests LLC.

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About Denver Botanic Gardens: Green inside and out, Denver Botanic Gardens was founded in 1951 and is considered one of the top botanical gardens in the United States and a pioneer in water conservation. Accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, the Gardens has a robust living plant collection, natural history collection and art collection along with temporary art exhibitions. The Gardens is a dynamic, 24-acre urban oasis in the heart of the city, offering unforgettable opportunities to flourish with unique garden experiences for the whole family – as well as world-class art exhibitions and education programs in the Freyer – Newman Center; plant conservation efforts and horticultural research. Additional sites extend this experience throughout the Front Range: Denver Botanic Gardens Chatfield Farms is a 700-acre native plant refuge with an active farm in Jefferson County; Mount Goliath is a high-altitude trail and interpretive site on the Mount Blue Sky Scenic Byway. The Gardens also manages programming at Plains Conservation Center in Aurora. For more information, visit us online at www.botanicgardens.org.