

Kew

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS

# Support Kew's Art Collection...



...and help us to keep a  
living record of Kew's Heritage Trees

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# Kew's Heritage Trees

**For over five years, Masumi Yamanaka has been creating this unique collection.**

Each piece depicts one of Kew's most significant trees and epitomises the living collections here at Kew. We would like to add as many of these pictures to Kew's art collection as we can. Unfortunately, our current funding will not allow us to purchase more than two of these pieces. So there is a real danger most will be lost to Kew forever. These paintings are a living record of the history of Kew's Heritage Trees, and with this in mind, we have launched a fund to help us to purchase these important pieces, and keep them at Kew.

## How you can help...

Sponsoring one of Masumi's paintings will help Kew to acquire the collection and be able to use these precise beautiful botanical pieces to show both plant and art lovers the importance of plants for life.

Sponsorship ranges from £1,000 to £20,000, and as a sponsor you will receive a personalised certificate along with a high resolution print of your chosen piece signed by the artist. You will also be invited to a unique event to meet Masumi and hear her talk about what inspired her to create this wonderful collection.



*Why not sponsor a painting as a gift to celebrate a special birthday, anniversary, event or the life of a loved one?*

# A message from the artist

*I first became fascinated with the world and work of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew in 2006 when I started to paint specimens from the collections. Kew is home to around 14,000 trees, of which 13 are considered 'heritage' or historic trees, while over 250 are 'champion' trees – the largest and finest of their kind in the country.*

*My interest in trees began when I created a series of paintings of the Indian horse chestnut tree, *Aesculus indica* 'Sydney Pearce' for which I was awarded the prestigious Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Gold Medal for Botanical Art in 2010. The seed had been sown and my interest in these remarkable trees began to grow. I started to look at the heritage trees in all their beauty and would spend my days visiting each specimen. It was then that I decided to record each individual tree as a permanent archive for Kew's art collections.*

*As a botanical artist, I see my role not only to record and illustrate the trees, but also to capture their beauty and power. My aspiration is that my paintings will inspire those who see them to share my experience and respond to these magnificent trees at Kew, and appreciate more deeply the fundamental importance of trees to our planet.*

Masumi Yamanaka, February 2015



# About the artist



Masumi Yamanaka was born in Nara, Japan in 1957. She came to London in 1987 to work for Marks & Spencer as a ceramics designer, and has been living in London for 26 years.

After becoming a freelance designer, she worked for ceramic manufacturers and retailers such as Royal Doulton, Portmeirion, The National Trust, Vista Alegre (Portuguese), and Crate & Barrel (USA).

Masumi has studied under Pandora Sellars; Pandora is an artist who has a long running affiliation with

Kew and has illustrated a number of monographs as well as contributing a significant number of illustrations to Curtis's Botanical Magazine.

Masumi has shown work at the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) including a series of camellias at the London Flower Show for which she was awarded a Silver-Gilt Medal. She was also awarded The Margaret Granger Memorial Silver Bow by the Society of Botanical Artists (SBA) for her illustration of 'Hippeastrum' (watercolour). This illustration appears in the SBA's associated publication 'The Botanical Palette' and the original work is now part of the collection at Kew.

Masumi has exhibited in Kew's Shirley Sherwood Gallery of Botanical Art in the exhibitions 'Trees' – Winter 2009, 'Bulbmania' – Summer 2010, 'Kew Artists' – Spring 2011, and 'Inspiring Kew' 2014. She was also the recipient of a gold medal from the RHS in 2010 for her illustrations of *Aesculus indica* 'Sydney Pearce', illustrated from the specimen at Kew. Masumi's work is held in the collections of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and in private collections throughout the world.

Masumi is also the Japanese Exhibition Coordinator for the forthcoming exhibition 'Flora Japonica' which will be held at the Shirley Sherwood Gallery of Botanical Art in 2016.

Masumi has been a freelance artist based in the Herbarium since 2007.

For further information or to sponsor a painting: Please contact Jill Taylor:  
by email: [commemorative@kew.org](mailto:commemorative@kew.org) or telephone: 020 8332 3248

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