

RHS Botanical Art & Photography Show exhibitor factsheet

Press and preview

15 June 2023

Public open days

16 June - 9 July 2023

In partnership with Saatchi
Gallery, London



Before completing your application please read through this document. It explains:

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Botanical illustration: a definition

Botanical Illustration is a genre of art that endeavours to faithfully depict and represent the form, colour, character and detail of a plant, identifiable to species or cultivar level.

The best botanical illustration successfully combines scientific accuracy with visual appeal. It must portray a plant with the precision and level of detail for it to be recognised and distinguished, from another species.

Selection: new exhibitors

Botanical Artists wanting to participate in the Botanical Art and Photography Show, judged by the RHS must first go through a selection process. Artists must submit a sample of four pieces of artwork to the RHS Botanical Art Judging Panel, for assessment and approval.

A Selection meeting will be held to consider artists for future years. The date and details for the next Selection meeting will be announced online at rhs.org.uk, to consider artists to exhibit in 2023 or subsequent years. Please contact the Botanical Art Judging Panel Secretary, picturecommittee@rhs.org.uk for further information, and to make arrangements before sending any work.

After the selection meeting the Secretary will write to each artist, informing them of the Panel's assessment. The artist's contact details will be held on a mailing list for five years from the date of acceptance or most recent exhibition.* Invitations to exhibit are issued by the RHS Shows Department and eligible artists may apply for space. Artists considered suitable to exhibit should stage an exhibit within 5 years, otherwise they must be assessed and approved again. Space to exhibit is not guaranteed, although we will endeavour to meet each artist's request.

Contacts

Botanical Art Judging Panel Secretary
Charlotte Brooks
RHS Lindley Library
80 Vincent Square, London SW1P 2PE
Tel: 020 7821 3050
picturecommittee@rhs.org.uk

Saatchi Gallery
Duke of York's HQ, King's Road, London SW3 4RY
Tel: 020 7811 3077

A very high standard of work (equivalent at least to a Silver RHS medal) is required to be selected to display botanical illustration, judged by the RHS. Emphasis is placed primarily on botanical accuracy in combination with aesthetic appeal. Artists should present examples of their work that is of the highest quality and has been completed recently (and at least within 5 years).

Selection guidelines

- Four pieces of work are to be submitted
- Each piece should be labelled in pencil on the reverse with the artist's name and address, date produced, medium and the subject or title of the piece of work
- The pieces do not need to be presented on a theme
- Selection criteria
- Quality of botanical illustration
- Quality of the presentation
- Overall impression

There is not an application form for submissions, artists will be issued with a receipt upon delivery of original artworks. Print submissions cannot be returned.

Artists based in the UK and Ireland

Please present all artworks individually mounted, not framed.

Whilst every effort is taken to ensure the safekeeping of original artwork, it is recommended that artists hand deliver and collect their pieces from the Lindley Library, by appointment with the Botanical Art Secretary. If, however, it is not possible to do so, alternative arrangements can be made with the Botanical Art Secretary. If artworks are posted from within the UK,

it is strongly recommended that they are sent 'Special Delivery' or by Art courier. The RHS cannot take responsibility for the condition of artworks received by post or courier.

Please note the postcode to be used for couriers and Sat-Nav ONLY is SW1P 2PB.

Artists based outside the UK

Please send four actual sized prints, DO NOT send original artwork. Each print must be labelled, as detailed above. It is recommended that prints are un-mounted, rolled in a poster tube, marked '£0 value.' Please be aware it is not possible to return prints.

Group submissions

Artists may apply to exhibit as a group and should ensure that one piece of work from each artist is submitted, labelled as above.

Selection: for exhibition

Only artists who have been accepted by the Botanical Art Judging Panel are eligible to apply for space.

Applications for space to display exhibits of botanical illustration should be made using the online application form emailed by the RHS Shows Department. The Botanical Art and Photography Show 2023 will take place at the Saatchi Gallery, London. The contact details for eligible artists are automatically sent to the RHS Shows Department following acceptance by the Botanical Art Judging Panel, however artists should ensure that the Secretary is kept informed of any changes to their contact details by emailing picturecommittee@rhs.org.uk, and that only one email address is supplied for use for show correspondence.

Artists remain eligible to apply for exhibition space for 5 years following the date of acceptance, or the date of most recent exhibition. It may not be possible to accommodate all of the artists who apply for space. If this is the case, selection criteria will be employed taking into consideration previous exhibition and medal history.

Rules & regulations for exhibiting

All artists must display six pieces of botanical illustration presented on a coherent theme. The choice of subject is left to the exhibitor.

The display must fit into the allotted space, which will be a maximum of 5 metres width of wall space. Artists will be advised if this allocation of space changes significantly.

Artwork must be supplied mounted, in accordance with dimensions agreed between the Botanical Art Secretary, Saatchi Gallery and Artist:

- Mount Colour: Work should be presented in white or off-white with a simple finish – no patterns or inlays.

- Thickness: The ideal thickness of the mount board should be 2mm. Extremely large works may utilise a mount of 3mm thickness.

Heavy, deep, or coloured mounts are not appropriate. All artworks will be displayed framed in neutral frames supplied by Saatchi Gallery / RHS. Framing will be undertaken at the gallery by trained technicians.

Artwork should be on white or off-white material – paper or vellum only. Manuscript vellum is recommended, rather than raw or unprepared vellum. Where non-white vellum is chosen, any natural colouration to the surface must not detract from the artwork, as visual clarity in the detail of the picture is of paramount importance.

Artwork should have been produced recently and certainly within the last 5 years.

With the emphasis on botanical accuracy please ensure all artwork is correctly identified (see 'Labelling/Plant Names' below).

Artwork should be life size and if not, a scale bar must be evident on the picture.

Artists are strongly advised to paint from living plant specimens and to make use of photographs for reference only.

Paintings directly copied from photographs are not acceptable.

Miniatures are unsuitable for the Botanical Art and Photography Show.

Art Sales

Artists are not obliged to sell their work. Where works are for sale, enquiries are directed back to the artist. The RHS / Saatchi Gallery does not act on behalf of the artist, and no commission is taken in the event of sales. The RHS / Saatchi Gallery will facilitate collection of purchased artworks at the end of the exhibition, in accordance with instructions from the artist.

Removal of exhibits

No painting or drawing forming part of an exhibit may be removed or substituted before the end of the show.

Transport

All artworks must be delivered directly to the Saatchi Gallery in London, prior to the exhibition. A schedule will be shared with exhibiting artists detailing delivery and courier options. UK based artists can arrange to deliver their works directly to the gallery.

For international artists, please ensure enough time has been allowed for artworks to clear through Customs, the RHS cannot be responsible for artworks delayed at Customs. Overseas artists may need an EORI number and CARNET in order to facilitate transit through Customs

for temporary exhibition purposes. It is each exhibitor's responsibility to ensure they make the appropriate arrangements.

The RHS will arrange and pay for the return of all artworks following the Show, using as much of the original packing material as possible.

Staging

Botanical Art exhibits at the Botanical Art and Photography Show are staged across two galleries on the ground floor of the Saatchi Gallery in London. These are large bright rooms with white walls, pale wood floors and day light effect lighting.



Botanical Art and Photography Show, Saatchi Gallery 2021

Layout and Images Summary

Following the confirmation of display space being allocated, each exhibitor is requested to email the following information to the Botanical Art Secretary at picturecommittee@rhs.org.uk:

- The orientation of each picture (landscape/ portrait)
- Confirmation of exterior paper and mount dimensions (see Framing and Mounting below)
- Thumbnail images (approx. 2mb jpeg) of each picture, for layout and identification. If the artworks are not yet finished, but a 'work in progress' image is available, this may be sent in.
- The order or arrangement of the pictures in the display. Artists must advise us if there is a particular order in which their display should be hung. For smaller artworks it may be preferable to offer a linear option (6 x 1 in a single row) and a grouped option (3 x 2 in two rows).
- The artwork title and label information. Each artist is asked to provide between 100-150 words about their exhibit and working practice. This text will be edited and printed as exhibition labels by the gallery, any edits will be confirmed with the artist.
- Social media, email address or website, for visitors to contact the artist directly.

Artist Boards and Supplementary information

The label text is considered as part of the overall presentation of the exhibit. All labels will be produced by RHS / Saatchi Gallery in accordance with Saatchi Gallery protocol, using text supplied by the artist.

Each exhibit will be accompanied by an 'Artists' Board' detailing the following:

- Name · Location / Place of work
- Medal history · Title of the exhibit
- Extended text about working practice and theme of the display up to 100 words
- Email address / Website / Instagram

In addition, artist must supply the wording for individual picture labels, with the correct full Latin name of the plant depicted, date of the artwork and medium.

Press and Social Media Publicity

Artists are also requested to supply at least two or three professional standard high-resolution images (10-15mb jpeg), to help promote and publicise the show. Where high resolution images are made available for press and social media publicity, copyright remains with the artist and we will always endeavour to ensure the artist is correctly credited.

Images should be given the file name: SURNAME_Title of Picture.jpg

e.g. SMITH_Passiflora_caerulea.jpg

All exhibiting artists will be invited to join the Press Day and Evening launch and prize-giving event.

Mounts

When planning a display, artists are recommended to pay attention to the window size through which the picture will be seen, as well as the external measurements. Please supply artworks ready mounted that will fit easily into standard size frames eg 40 x 50 cm; 50 x 60 cm etc. Should you need further advice on this please contact the Botanical Art Secretary at picturecommittee@rhs.org.uk

We would prefer to use standard size frames, in order that we can re-use the frames in future and reduce potential waste.

If your artworks fall outside of these dimensions, or it will not be easy to present them in conventional picture frames, please advise us as soon as possible.

Frames

All artworks are framed by RHS / Saatchi Gallery, using a consistent style and colour of neutral frame. Frames will be available for purchase after the exhibition. Artworks are returned to artists unframed, unless the frames have been purchased. Please note framed artworks cannot be shipped overseas.

Individual work labels & plant names

Each picture should include a label giving the name of the plant or plants depicted in Latin. Please see below and contact the Picture Panel Secretary picturecommittee@rhs.org.uk for further information if required.

Latin plant names will be checked and if a more up to date plant name is identified than the one given, this may be used instead. However, it is the artist's responsibility to check the plant has been correctly identified.

Summary

- All artwork must be labelled with the correct scientific Latin name of the plant.
- Genus and species should be in italics.
- Genus names must begin with an upper case letter.
- Species names must begin with a lower case letter.
- The cultivar name is in Roman, not italics, placed in single quotation marks. The main words begin with an upper case letter.
- The abbreviations for subspecies, variety and forma (subsp., var., and f.) must not be italicised.
- Plant family names must be italicised.

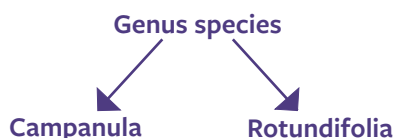
Why do plants have scientific names?

All living organisms have a scientific Latin name and many also have vernacular or common names. The scientific name is preferable, because the common name can be ambiguous or mis-leading. For example, the English bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, is a different plant to the Scottish bluebell, *Campanula rotundifolia*.

How to write scientific plant names

Scientific Latin plant names must be italicised or underlined.

The scientific name of a plant has two parts: genus and species. For example, with the English common harebell, the first word *Campanula* is the name of the genus and the second word *rotundifolia* is the name of the species.



The genus name always comes first and begins with an upper case letter. The species name is always in lower case even when it commemorates a country or a person, such as *Rosa chinensis*, the China rose, or *Rosa banksiae*, named for the wife of Sir Joseph Banks.

The abbreviations for subspecies, variety and forma (subsp., var., and f.) must be written in Roman, not italic, for example *Narcissus romieuxii* subsp. *albidus*, *Clematis montana* var. *rubens*.

Artists who wish to include plant family names on their paintings should note that family names, such as *Campanulaceae* must be written in italics.

Plant name authorities

Every scientific name is followed by the name of an authority, meaning the person or persons who originally published the name. This is often abbreviated, for example *Campanula rotundifolia* L. denotes that the name was first published by Carl Linnaeus.

Inclusion of the authority name on artwork labelling is at the discretion of the artist – it does not need to be included on the labelling.

Hybrids

A cross between plants of two different species results in a hybrid. For example, *Lilium* × *parkmanii* is the name given to the cross between *Lilium speciosum* and *Lilium auratum*. The “x” indicates the hybrid status and should be written as x, not x, and must not be italicised.

Cultivars

Cultivar means cultivated variety. Cultivar names are given to denote variation within species and that generated by hybridisation, in cultivation. They are not printed in italics and should be enclosed in single quotation marks. For example *Clematis* ‘Huldine’ or *Clematis* × *cartmanii* ‘Joe’.

All the main words in a cultivar name must begin with an upper case letter, for example *Campanula latifolia* ‘Roger Wood’ or *Campanula persicifolia* ‘Coerulea Flore Pleno’. Other less grammatically important words do not begin with a capital, for example *Lilium* ‘Pot of Gold’, *Lilium* ‘Musik der Nacht’.



The names of cultivars are complicated by trade designations (selling names) which are names that are used to market a plant when the cultivar name is considered to be unsuitable for marketing purposes, for example *Clematis* ‘Evi Johill’ has been given the trade designation JOSEPHINE. Trade designations are usually written in SMALL CAPITALS, and not italicized. Trade designations must not be placed between quotes. When cited together with the cultivar name, the order does not matter, but generally it is preferable to put the best-known name first, for example:

Clematis BLUE ANGEL ‘Błękitny Anioł’
Clematis INSPIRATION ‘Zoin’
Clematis ROSEMOOR ‘Evip002’
Clematis ‘Warszawska Nike’ MIDNIGHT SHOWERS
Clematis ‘Helios’ AZTEK

For non-botanists, the use of cultivar names and trade designations can understandably be very confusing. It is recommended that artists should refer to and follow the RHS website or the latest edition of The RHS Plant Finder, where plant names are correctly cited.

Remember that plants bought from garden centres or nurseries may be misnamed. Artists should endeavour to ensure that the names that appear on their paintings are the correct names. Misnamed plants and/or incorrectly labelled artwork will adversely affect the final result of the judging.

The RHS Plant Finder lists the accepted names of plants currently commercially available in the UK, but is a list only – it cannot be used to identify plants.

Judging & awards

Particular credit is given for botanical accuracy, exact colour reproduction and attention to detail with aesthetic appeal. Higher awards tend to be given to exhibits illustrating a particular theme or plant family. Artwork is judged as a complete display so that, if one or two works are of a lower standard than the others with which they are shown, the level of award will be affected.

Gold medals are only awarded to displays of outstanding and consistent excellence.

All awards will be based on the horticultural or botanical interest and accuracy of the exhibits.

The following Royal Horticultural Society medals are available for award:

· Gold · Silver-Gilt · Silver · Bronze

If an exhibit is judged to be below Bronze standard no award will be made. The judges adhere to strict criteria and all decisions are review by a Moderator to ensure consistency. The decisions of the judges shall be final.

At each show, feedback is available after judging from a member of the Botanical Art Judging Panel and is automatically available to all artists. This may be face to face, or written feedback, if the artist is unable to attend the Saatchi Gallery.

Some exhibitors refer to themselves at RHS Gold Medallist or RHS Medallist. These reference should be qualified by the show(s) and date(s) of the award(s). If more than one medal is referred to, at least the years in which the medals were won should be mentioned.

Medals

The first time an exhibitor is awarded a Gold Medal at an RHS Show, it is sent to the exhibitor free of charge in the autumn of the year when the medal was won. No second Gold Medal or first and subsequent medals of any other grade will be sent unless the exhibitor wishes to pay for them. Medals are never sent out un-engraved.

Summary terms & conditions

Acceptance of entries

The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) adopts a good faith approach in assessing all applications for space and subsequently in monitoring the conduct and standard of exhibitors to whom space is allocated. However, whilst every effort is made to allocate space to exhibitors whom the Society regards as appropriate to the Show, matters may come to the attention of the Society after allocation which either they were not aware of at the time space was allocated to the particular exhibitor, or which have arisen since the time that space was allocated.

Accordingly, after acceptance and up to the Show, the Society reserves the right to cancel or amend any allocation of space if it considers the attendance of an exhibitor at the Show will be prejudicial to the interests of the general public, members of the Society or the good name of the Society. The RHS reserves, without limitation, the right to remove or alter exhibits and to refuse any application for space and in the event of any such refusal it is not required to give an explanation.

An application for space to exhibit does not automatically result in the allocation of space. If the show is over-subscribed it may be necessary to make a selection according to criteria based on medal history and the proposed botanical art subject. New exhibitors will be given preference where possible, but space to exhibit cannot be guaranteed.

Acceptance of Regulations by exhibitors

Application for space by the exhibitor and/or the acceptance of space offered shall mean that the exhibitor agrees to observe and conform to the Rules and Regulations of the Show and to abide by the decisions of the Society in connection with the Show.

Applications for space

Applications must be made on the official application form. The return deadlines are printed on the application forms. Applications received after the deadline that are of a sufficiently high standard may be placed on a waiting list.

The RHS reserves the right to deny space at the Show to any exhibitor who has consistently failed to provide a high standard and quality of goods or services sold through the Show, or who has failed to adhere to the RHS regulations. The RHS may at its discretion pass information to other exhibition organisers concerning the conduct of such exhibitors.

Cancellation of space

Exhibitors who have been allocated space but subsequently find that they are unable to exhibit must notify the Secretary as soon as possible in writing. Exhibitors who cancel late or who neglect to send any

notification may not be allocated space at subsequent RHS shows or events. The RHS reserves the right to recover its reasonable expenses when exhibits are cancelled.

Exhibitors' liability & need for insurance

It is recommended that artists hold their own insurance for loss or damage to their artworks, whilst in transit and in-situ at the gallery.

RHS liabilities

The RHS carries third party insurance cover in respect of any such claim through its liability or negligence during the show including the build-up and breakdown periods.

Saatchi insurance

All artworks are insured whilst at Saatchi Gallery, under the insurance policies of the Gallery

Show cancellation and force majeure

If the Show is not held, or if the completion of the stand contractor's work is not completed through causes beyond the control of the RHS, then the allocation of space will be deemed to be null and void and a refund will only be made from monies paid direct to the Society. If the Show is partially closed through causes beyond the control of the RHS, no refunds will be made of monies paid directly to the RHS. You are strongly urged to take out insurance to cover the possibility that the Show may be cancelled in accordance with this provision.

Judging Criteria

A: Technical skill	Drawing skills	How well observed is the plant and is the drawing accurate. Are the forms well modelled. Is the perspective true. Clarity of draughtsmanship and delineation of form. Is there clear delineation of botanical elements
	Monochrome	How well has the medium been used Is the shading appropriate (stippling etc)
	Paint and colour handling	Is the colouring accurate and sufficiently varied. How well has the colour been applied. For colour, is the shading appropriate. Where appropriate, have washes been used to good effect and a breadth of tonal ranges achieved
B: Science and horticulture	Botanical details	Do the dissections and magnifications, if used, reveal additional information about the plant. Scale bars or indications of magnifications must be present. Are the points of attachment (of buds, leaves, flowers etc) accurately observed
	Horticultural / Ecological / local environment content	Is the subject a wild plant or a garden plant. If appropriate, is the character and habit of the plant described in the picture. ie. Is it a climber, clump forming, does it exhibit colour change through its life cycle. If appropriate, is the habitat or local ecology illustrated, or described in the written information
C: Overall impression	Composition and arrangement on the page	Is the composition well arranged. Is the artistic impression aesthetically pleasing. How much white space is there on the page; is it appropriate. How easy is it to make sense of the picture; does it 'read well'
	Balance of exhibit	Do the pictures hang well together as a set. Are the pictures of a consistent size and presentation. Is the theme coherent. Do the pictures meet the artists own brief
	New ideas / Scale of endeavour	Do the pictures offer new ways of interpreting the subject What is the scale and scope of the project

All information correct at July 2023 and subject to change

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