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HUNT INSTITUTE PRESENTS
BOTANICALS: ENVIRONMENTAL EXPRESSIONS IN ART
THE ALISA AND ISAAC M. SUTTON COLLECTION
23 October 2009–30 June 2010

Pittsburgh, PA—The exhibition *Botanicals: Environmental Expressions in Art, the Alisa and Isaac M. Sutton Collection* represents one of the finest private collections of contemporary botanical art in America. These 54 artworks are expressions of the purely aesthetic forms found in nature and a reminder that we are stewards of our natural resources for future generations.

Isaac Sutton's love of nature and concern for the environment led him to a crossroads in his collection. Since the 1980s he had been acquiring landscape paintings that were reminiscent of his childhood summers spent in the mountains of Lebanon and his early adult years in Israel. In 1997 he was introduced to botanical art through *The Shirley Sherwood Collection of Contemporary Botanical Art* exhibition at the National Arts Club in New York. He was struck by the artistic virtuosity of the paintings and felt an immediate connection to the plant subjects portrayed. Soon after he began to develop his own collection in this genre while discovering the work of artists in the triennial *International Exhibition of Botanical Art & Illustration* at the Hunt Institute, in the annual exhibits of the American Society of Botanical Artists (ASBA) at the Horticultural Society of New York, and in galleries and botanical gardens in the United States and abroad.

Isaac Sutton collects botanical art for its aesthetic impact. He appreciates an artist's ability to capture not only the beauty of a plant specimen but also its distinct form and function with scientific accuracy while filtering it through his or her own sensibility. Over time he has become interested in how the subjects of the paintings represent an important part of our ecosystem. The title of the exhibit, *Botanicals: Environmental Expressions in Art*, echoes the role that the botanical artist plays in documenting rare and endangered plants and common plants that play an important role in our planet's biodiversity. Also of importance is the role that the collector and the museum play in supporting and validating the vision of these botanical artists by sharing it with the public through exhibitions. Sutton feels that botanical art should be recognized as a melding of art and science that both inspires and educates.

The exhibition includes 54 artworks by 40 artists from Australia, Belgium, Cuba, England, France, Germany, India, Japan, Russia, Scotland, South Africa and the United States. The artists are Beverly Allen, Timothy Angell, Anita Barley, Leslie Berge, Susannah Blaxill, Svetlana Boucher, Beverly Duncan, Jean Emmons, Damodar Lal Gurjar, Regine Hagedorn, Celia Hegedüs, Kyoto Katayama, Martha Kemp, Karen Kluglein, Katie Lee, Angela Lober, David Mackay, Fiona McGlynn, Elaine Musgrave, Kate Nessler, Patricia Newman, Susan Ogilvy,

Hillary Landemare Parker, John Pastoriza-Piñol, Rachel Pedder-Smith, Rodella Purves, Kelly Leahy Radding, Celia Rosser, Adèle Rossetti Morosoni, James Sain, Lizzie Sanders, Muriel Sandler, Hiroe Sasaki, Alan Singer, Peta Stockton, Jessica Tcherepnine, Vicki Thomas, Bronwyn Van de Graaff, Catherine Watters and Carol Woodin.

In conjunction with *Botanicals: Environmental Expressions in Art, the Alisa and Isaac M. Sutton Collection*, the Hunt Institute will hold its annual Open House in June 2010. We will present two curators' talks and displays. Archivist Angela Todd will talk about the legacy and legend of Sir Joseph Banks (1744–1820), the famed British naturalist, botanist and world traveler for whom *Banksia* is named. Librarian Charlotte Tancin will discuss examples of botanical artworks that were created by artists who were part of an expedition, were employed afterward to draw specimens for publication, or explored on their own seeking new plants to draw. We will also have a guided gallery tour of the exhibition by our assistant curator of art, overviews and displays from our departments, a tour of the reading room and opportunities to meet one-on-one with our staff to ask questions and see items in the collections. We encourage everyone to consider visiting us during this Open House. It will be a good time to see the exhibition before it closes and an opportunity to have an inside look at our collections and our work. A schedule of events will be available in January 2010 on our Web site. We are looking forward to your visit.

The exhibition will be on display on the 5th 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 26–29 November and 18–31 December 2009; 1–3 January, 7 March, 2–4 April, 2 May and 30–31 May 2010). We will also open on Saturday, 31 October 2009, 1–5 p.m., during Carnegie Mellon's homecoming, and on Sunday, 16 May 2010, 1–4 p.m., during commencement. The exhibition is open to the public free of charge. A fully illustrated color catalog will accompany the exhibition. For further information, contact the Hunt Institute at 412-268-2434. A travel exhibition of this collection will be available in summer 2010. For booking information, please contact: susan.freinathan@verizon.net.

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 dedicated 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; 30,000 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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