

## Of a Botanical Nature

Juror: Wendy Hollender

“original artwork that reflects the beauty and uniqueness of flora (realistic or representational style). Plants and all aspects of plant development such as seed pods, leaves, fruits, and flowers are appropriate.

I was excited to receive such a large selection of entries for this show. Choosing was difficult but allowed for an opportunity to include a wide variety of mediums and styles. This exhibit appeals to a large group of artists that use nature for their inspiration in a representational style. I am primarily a botanical artist and partial to botanical art in part because artists whom practice this art form usually work predominately from life, working from real plants.

Botanical artists are discouraged from working exclusively from photographs but in other forms of realistic painting many artists do work exclusively or predominantly from photographs. This creates a finished piece with a very different sensibility than work done from an artist directly interpreting the three-dimensional world on to a two dimensional surface. In this show there is a combination of very different styles and techniques though all artwork is representational taken from the plant world. There are many beautiful pieces created in various styles but all chosen exhibited a good understanding of the plant they portrayed.

I chose a large selection of mediums used and liked the combination of three-dimensional and two-dimensional work. All work chosen pays homage to the beauty found in plants and remained true to the plants structure and color. I also picked work that showed a high skill level and discipline in creating realistic work. Plants are complex and require close observation and study. In the end a piece of art appeals or doesn't and often for a reason hard to put into words. I hope all that view this exhibition will feel satisfied with the quality and variety of styles and medium selected and enjoy the beauty and grace that these pieces exhibit.

First Place: Hishiki Asuka of Briarwood, NY for “Tulip and Old World Swallowtail”

Honorable Mention:

Peggie Blizzard of Dobbs Ferry NY for “Ball Ideal”

Carrie DiCostanzo of New Jersey for “Malus domestica”

Ingrid Finnan of the Bronx for “Allium ascalonicum -Shallots”