Artists from the Florida Society of Botanical Artists celebrate native plants

Botanical art today is enjoying a renaissance, and although it often depicts far-flung marvels of the botanical world, many contemporary practitioners of this timeless art seek their subject matter in more prosaic locations, such as their own back yards.

Under the artist’s brush, the complex structure of a pine cone is analyzed and delineated. A nodding ray flower visited by butterflies is captured in graceful strokes of color. A flower’s anatomy is explored in cross section. Rendering plants in the classical botanical style distills the essence of each subject, making it somehow more comprehensible than a photograph. Whether created for scientific study or the contemplation of beauty, the art of Florida’s flora enhances our understanding of each native plant’s form and function.

Top: Longleaf Pine, Pinus palustris
Medium – Prismacolor color pencil
Artist – Gloria Markiewicz

Right: Encyclia tampensis
Medium – watercolor
Artist – Kay Adams
Top left: *Silphium asteriscus* with *Vanessa virginiensis*
Medium – watercolor
Artist – Susan Benjamin

Top right: *Jacquemontia pentanthos*
Medium – acrylic
Artist – Susan McDonald

Bottom right: *Helianthus debilis*, *Bidens alba*, and *Poinsettia cyathophora*
Medium – watercolor
Artist – Charlotte Staub Thomas
Native Visions
Illuminating the beauty of Florida’s native plants

Encyclia tampensis
Medium – graphite
Artist – Susan Benjamin
Bonamia grandiflora
Florida lady’s night cap
Medium – graphite.
Artist – Leslie Nicks Panzarella

Ipomoea pes-caprae
Railroad vine
Medium – graphite
Artist – Cindy Clifton

Asimina reticulata
Medium – pen & ink on drafting vellum
Artist – Philip Louis Phillips
The purpose of the Florida Native Plant Society is to conserve, preserve, and restore the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.

Official definition of native plant:
For most purposes, the phrase Florida native plant refers to those species occurring within the state boundaries prior to European contact, according to the best available scientific and historical documentation. More specifically, it includes those species understood as indigenous, occurring in natural associations in habitats that existed prior to significant human impacts and alterations of the landscape.

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http://fnps.org

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