



# ~ Botanica ~

## Exhibition Artists



6<sup>th</sup> May – 24<sup>th</sup> June

**Lesley Alexander**

**Jennifer Duval-Smith**

**Janet Marshall**

**Claire Broughton**

**Vicki Jones**

**Gillian Receveur**

**Lisa Dickson**

**Annette Judd**

**Birgit Rhode**

### Lesley Alexander

Originally from the UK, I am a botanical and natural history artist now living in Riverhead, Auckland.

I am intrigued by and love painting the intricate details of plants and natural objects. Through careful observation, drawing and painting I have learnt so much about the natural world around me. Watercolour is my medium of choice, its transparent quality of allows me to add many glazes which not only bring a richness and depth of colour to my work, but a softness too when needed. I also enjoy working in graphite and ink and working on vellum which involves a whole new skill set.

Botanical art is a marriage of art and science, and my paintings are always the result of an incredibly fascinating voyage of discovery. Armed with my magnifying glass and microscope, my larger artworks can often take 100 hours from initial sketches, dissections to finished artwork as I endeavour to capture the tiny details, allowing the viewer to discover the beauty within.

Nature journaling is another important part of my art practice - I love sketching out in the field, as this acts as a foil to the concentration needed back in my studio.

As Edgar Degas says, 'Art is not what you see, it's what you make others see'.

### Claire Broughton

I was given some watercolours as a 40<sup>th</sup> birthday gift, picked some pansies out of the garden and started sketching. With practice and time I discovered the magical qualities of how the paints flow and blend, I was hooked! I found the process of learning very therapeutic.

In 2007 we moved to New Zealand from the UK and in 2012 I completed a workshop with Susan Tustain-Harrison, who helped me find the next level with my painting and whose encouragement was invaluable.

In 2016 I completed a certificate in "Drawing Nature, Science and Culture: Natural History Illustration" course through the University of Newcastle, Australia. This improved my drawing accuracy for my watercolour paintings. My preference is to draw from real life specimens but I also take photos for reference. My watercolours take many, many hours and so the photos are a necessary aid to refer to as inevitably specimens will wither and die before my work is completed.

I am a member of the Botanical Artist of Society New Zealand and a Friend of the Auckland Botanical Gardens which have enabled me to take part in exhibitions.

Botanics are my passion and provide me with a deep connection to their source as I am also a certified practising aromatherapist where the use of essential oils from beautiful botanicals has enhanced mine and my clients lives.

## Lisa Dickson

Having been surrounded by avid gardeners most of my life, I have a fascination and love for plants and flowers. I am personally a very bad gardener, but my grandfathers', father, aunt and husband all have green fingers. I think in part I feel compelled to recreate the beauty of plants on paper, to make up for how bad I am at growing them in real life!

Born in the Waikato, I have lived on the West Coast for the past 19 years. It is over this time that I rediscovered my love of painting. "The West Coast is quite isolated when it comes to things like painting classes or art societies. But the internet has opened up a huge world of opportunity, and I completed a distance Drawing and Painting Diploma through the London Art College, and then a Chinese Brush drawing certificate with them. It was the push I needed to pick up my brushes and pens again." Online tutorials in watercolor helped her finally learn how to use watercolor in a way that works for me.

I am currently engrossed in flower portraits, pulling on aspects of botanical art to create contemporary flower portraits. I am a member of the Botanical Art Society of New Zealand and paints in my 'spare time'. I have sold botanical portraits in Westport, Christchurch, Wellington, Hanmer Springs and Auckland, with several works sent to Australia and the United States.

## Jennifer Duval-Smith

I am a contemporary botanical artist based in Mount Eden. As both gardener and painter, I am driven by an obsession with the natural world around me, and by my delight in the freshness and luminosity of the watercolour medium on beautiful paper. My object is to connect the viewer to the beauty to be found in close observation of my plant subject, be it humble or magnificent. I challenge myself to capture the spirit of each plant with both accuracy and spontaneity and to reveal a new or previously unconsidered perspective.

## Vicki Jones

I love the vibrant colours and the range of textures that can be represented with coloured pencils. They are, for me, an excellent medium with which to interpret the intricate details of nature.

After drawing the harakeke flowers (*Phormium tenax*, New Zealand flax), I attended a Pakohe Whanganui papermaking workshop in 2021 which provided the perfect paper on which to make this giclée image of the drawing.

Based in Ngahinapouri, Waikato, I particularly enjoy nature walks where I can take time to observe flowers and foliage in detail. These walks offer an abundance of inspiration and subject material for my representations of nature.

## Annette Judd

From my earliest memories I have had a love and interest in plants and wildlife. I have also always had an interest in art and have concentrated on plants and the natural world for my artwork, in the last few years.

I mostly work in graphite and coloured pencil and occasionally in water colour and other mediums. I create my drawings directly from nature and usually from plants growing in my own garden as I have a particular connection with these plants and knowledge of their history and habits through the seasons.

I like to portray the plant in a dramatic and distinctive way, studying from all angles and observing the changes as the plant matures.

I find especially beautiful the dying or damaged flower or leaf with its added character and patterns or the wild and modest flowers that inhabit our gardens which can be overlooked but have their own particular charm and character.



## Janet Marshall

I am a New Zealand artist specialising in birds and botanical art. My work is represented in many books, magazines, prints, stamps. I work in gouache, watercolour, acrylic, ink and wash and pencil and metalpoint.

I have been painting since 1970 when I produced the paintings for 5 x field guides to New Zealand birds.

These were followed by a series of limited edition prints and books, including 6 x children's books on NZ flora and fauna.

In the 1980s my work was represented on 10 x New Zealand Post stamps featuring endangered New Zealand birds.

I have produced paintings for NZ Post, NZ Treasury, NZ Forest and Birds Society, NZ Ornithological Society and the NZ Milk Board.

My work has been on 14 stamps including 2 x NZ Gamebird Habitat stamps and prints and 2 x NZ Stamp Assn. stamps.

In the 1990s I wrote and illustrated my book Images of a Garden, which is a written and visual diary of my then garden Te Popo Gardens in Taranaki.

For botanical work I like scientific illustration which I do with pen and ink and ink and wash. For botanical paintings I use gouache and watercolour on watercolour paper.

I also work with metalpoint, using 24kt gold and pure silver.

## Gillian Receveur

I specialize in colour pencil drawings of botanical specimens on paper, to achieve accuracy and precision. The fascination lies in the detail and the challenges of reproducing a plant specimen with accuracy in two dimensional form. This is of principal importance in the genre to focus in perfecting the style through intense observation and much practice.

In 2004 I applied to the Society of Botanical Artists in the UK to study their Distance Learning Diploma. It was a proud moment indeed when I graduated from the Art Workers Guild in April 2017.

I use primarily Faber Castelle pencils as they are oil based and hold a point well, an essential requirement for fine detailed work.. Colour laydown is smooth and colour is easily blended without smudging.

All of my drawings are produced on Fabriano Classico 5-50% hot press cotton paper that enables the work to sit very smooth on the surface.

My work is published in the New Zealand Artist's magazine, *The Garden Journal* and *Botanical Paintings* by Margaret Stevens. My work has also been accepted for the World Wide Botanical Exhibition in 2018. I also exhibit within New Zealand while receiving commissions. I am a member of the Botanical Art Society of New Zealand.



## Birgit Rhode

The roots of my love affair with plants and sculptural detail reach far back into my childhood.

From an early age I was influenced by both of my parents. My father, an architect and keen photographer, instilled in me the discipline for precise detail, whereas my mother's watercolour landscape paintings inspired the love for nature and colour.

I came to New Zealand from Germany nearly 30 years ago. Through my professional career as a biologist I developed a deep appreciation of natural history as well as skills in electron microscopy and macro photography. From fairly early on in my career I've been attracted to the structure and fine detail of all things natural. Nature's colours further deepened the artistic attraction for me. I started painting and dyeing fabrics, first canvas and then silk which later broadened into quilt making.

It was about 7 years ago that I discovered the medium of watercolour. And after initial trial and error I finally discovered what and how I really desired to paint. It was natural things, especially plants, and to capture them in as much detail as possible. The shapes of leaves, flowers, fruit and seeds are more diverse than we could possibly imagine and their sculptural patterns are hugely inspiring. Autumn colours are a particular delight and inspiration for me and there isn't an autumnal walk where I don't pick up some new exciting painting subjects.