

WILTON LIBRARY



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

In A Look “Behind The Blossoms” Six Artists Reveal the Secrets Of Botanical Art at Wilton Library

Wilton, CT – The traditional discipline of botanical art in six distinctly vivid interpretations are on display in Wilton Library’s June exhibition, “Behind the Blossoms: Six Views of Botanical Art.” The artists’ reception is Friday, June 6, from 6-7:30 p.m., with the exhibit running through Friday, June 27. The artists, all instructors at The New York Botanical Gardens, reveal the little known inspirations, back stories and techniques that make this perennially popular art form come to life.

Artists Carol E. Hamilton (Wilton, CT), Laretta Jones (Purdys, NY), Kathie Miranda (Shelton, CT), Dick Rauh, Ph.D (Norwalk, CT), Louisa Rawle Tiné (South Salem, NY) and Eleanor Wunderlich (Ossining, NY), together represent well more than 100 years experience in interpreting nature and have spent countless hours in creating these highly accurate and detailed representations of plant life.

Hamilton offers an unusual take on traditional botanical illustration with a six-panel polytych of quince in its annual cycle from blossom, to fruit and quietly back to its bare, beautiful branches. Jones presents a selection of spices, dramatically enlarged to reveal the compelling beauty of the diminutive forms that is so easily overlooked in today’s hurried world. Miranda indirectly shares her passion for the preservation of local habitats by focusing on a series of invasive plants that pose an immediate threat to precious native plants. Rauh, illustrator of *Wildflowers in Winter*, finds drama in seed pods and plants of an almost architectural strength, and has been inspired not only to paint these specimens but to bring them to life in a series of

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tanka poems, which he shares in this exhibition. Tiné allies her powerful style and command of color to her extensive knowledge of the plant world in a series of recent paintings. These artists are also very pleased to include a selection of the work of their colleague Eleanor Wunderlich in this exhibition. Their long-time associate, who recently passed away, authored the well-known standard text in the field of botanical art, *Botanical Illustration in Watercolor*.

The exhibition promises a unique experience for the visitor in that the artists will be sharing not only their finished work, but also their research, preliminary drawings, photographs, explanations of their technique and the inspirations that have made their work possible. The viewer will come away with an unprecedented understanding and appreciation for this demanding, delicate and dramatic art form. The majority of the works are available for purchase, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting the library.

Wilton Library exhibitions are curated by Ed MacEwen. The library is located at 137 Old Ridgefield Road in the heart of Wilton Center. Library hours are Monday through Thursday, 10 – 8, Friday, 10 – 6 p.m., Saturday, 10 – 5 p.m., Sunday, 1 – 5 p.m. through June 15. The library is closed on Sundays in the summer beginning June 22. For more information and directions, www.wiltonlibrary.org or call (203) 762-3950.

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Caption: “Behind the Blossoms: Six Views of Botanical Art” opens at Wilton Library on Friday, June 6, from 6 – 7:30 p.m. The artists are all New York Botanical Garden instructors and include Carol E. Hamilton (Wilton, CT), Laretta Jones (Purdys, NY), Kathie Miranda (Shelton, CT), Dick Rauh, Ph.D (Norwalk, CT), Louisa Rawle Tiné (South Salem, NY) and Eleanor Wunderlich (Ossining, NY). The exhibit runs through June 27. For information: www.wiltonlibrary.org or call (203) 762-3950.