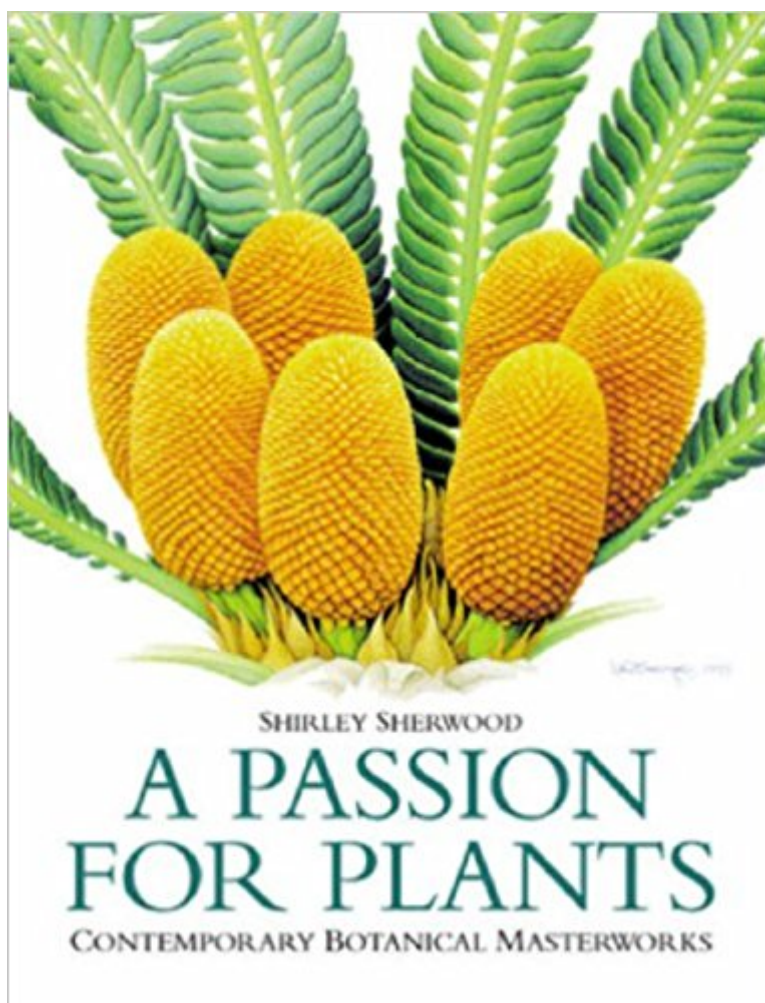


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# A Passion For Plants: Contemporary Botanical Masterpieces



## Synopsis

“International interest in this distinctive art form was renewed by Sherwood, whose personal collection is considered the world’s most comprehensive. Captivating and commanding, this opulent compilation superbly show-cases vivid new interpretations of familiar subjects. •Booklist. “Equally important for both botanical and art collections. •Library Journal.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This stunning showcase of paintings by over 80 contemporary botanical artists from all over the world comes from Sherwood’s own comprehensive collection; she acquired the works presented here since 1995. The paintings are beautifully reproduced, often with additional enlarged details, showing both their meticulous scientific detail and their dramatic beauty. An introductory section features both recent works and classic botanical paintings, showing how well recent works compare. The main section reproduces over 200 paintings, with a detailed discussion of each painting as well as biographical information about the artists and their working methods and Sherwood’s personal relationship with them. An appendix provides smaller reproductions of more of her paintings and information about their artists. Sherwood also furnishes a list of all artists in her collection, an international directory of where to find botanical art, and classes and a schedule of her collection’s future exhibits. Sherwood’s 1996 work, *Contemporary Botanical Artists: The Shirley Sherwood Collection*, has become the standard reference work for botanical artists; this book will be

an equally important purchase for both botanical and art collections. Marit MacArthur Taylor, Auraria Lib., Denver Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc.

A golden age of botanical art followed Europe's great voyages of discovery, but the creation and appreciation of botanicals languished during the twentieth century until its final years, when international interest in this distinctive art form was renewed almost single-handedly by Sherwood, whose personal collection of contemporary botanical art is considered the world's most comprehensive. This brilliantly produced monograph, Sherwood's reverent tribute to the rebirth of this precious art form, matches the best of modern botanical art against that of past masters with exquisite reproductions of more than 200 paintings by an impressive array of international talent. Renaissance artists intently recorded visions of nature never seen before; today's artists seek to capture botanical beauties threatened with extinction, chronicling life-forms that may never be seen again. Captivating and commanding, this opulent compilation superbly showcases vivid new interpretations of familiar subjects. Carol Haggas Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Beautiful, full color illustrations, including many full page ones suitable for framing. Nice selection.

Beautiful botanicals

An absolute treasure trove of the wonderful botanical art of many of the world's best artists. It is a great asset to my collection.

As a rank beginner in watercolor and pen and ink I much appreciate the effort it takes to produce great illustrations of natural objects. Shirley Sherwood has brought together her remarkable collection of modern botanical paintings (and some ink renderings) in "A Passion for Plants: Contemporary Botanical Masterworks" and made them accessible to the public. It is certainly an impressive effort. Unlike many styles of illustration, botanical art usually involved a finely detailed painting on a white background, occasionally with additional smaller drawings or paintings. Occasionally a background is also provided, but most have no background. The renditions of just about every artist featured are extremely well done and it is hard to pick a favorite. Kate Nessler's watercolor of Rose Hips & Oak Leaves, Mariko Imai's exquisite watercolors of carnivorous plants, Elizabeth Dowle's paintings of fruit, Francesca Anderson's detailed ink renditions of sunflowers and

cacti, and John Wilkinson's ultra realistic (complete with insect damage and hover flies!) watercolor of *Ligularia*, are just a few of the treats in this magnificent book. It sure makes for a tough standard, but a worthy one, for us beginners! A great book for artists, botanists and anyone interested in plant illustration!

Shirley Sherwood, described as an "original" in the preface to this book, is an avid collector of - wait for it - contemporary botanical art. Like most people, I assumed this kind of art was (literally) baroque. Sherwood has also promoted this neglected art form through exhibitions, catalogues and books. Her publisher admits that Sherwood has been exhorting, cajoling and influencing painters all over the world to contribute works for her books! In a sense, then, the art reproduced in this superb volume is "made in Shirley Sherwood". The author also heads courses in botanical painting at her husband's Orient-Express hotels. That's quite an accomplishment - start a genre and then publish your very own book about it. But then, why not? "A passion for plants" contain works acquired 1996-2000. A few paintings by the old "Masters" are also shown and compared to modern paintings of the same plants. People interested in "A passion for plants" might also want to buy an earlier book by the same author, "Contemporary Botanical Artists: The Shirley Sherwood Collection". I haven't had the opportunity to see it myself, though. This particular book is definitely five stars. I might consider buying it as a gift for my parents.

I would highly recommend this book. It features short biographies of highly regarded botanical artists illustrated by examples of their work. Both fruit and flower paintings are included. The paintings are beautifully observed and designed. Aspiring botanical artists would learn a lot from this book and be inspired. I will always treasure this book which I bought in hard cover.

This is an excellent collection of botanical illustrations reproduced in very detailed, rich color on quality paper. Artists from all over the world are represented with brief biographies of each one. I think this book is one of the best books to have if you love botanical illustration and would like to see examples done by highly skilled, scientifically accurate illustrators. Just as good or better than the first Shirley Sherwood collection book.

This book is very helpful, especially as a reference for anyone learning botanical illustration or anyone wanting to learn about specific botanical artists. Its beautiful art work also makes it very nice as a "coffee table" book for others to admire.

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