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THE DESERT BOTANICAL GARDEN AND PHOENIX ART MUSEUM WELCOME THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF BOTANICAL ARTISTS

*Simultaneous Exhibitions Featuring Beautiful Botanical Paintings On View
October 3 thru January 3*

PHOENIX (September 22, 2009) – Beginning October 3, the Valley has two superb ways to enjoy and explore the beauty of botanical art. Phoenix Art Museum and the Desert Botanical Garden, in partnership with the American Society of Botanical Artists (ASBA), will host two simultaneous exhibitions that capture the often overlooked beauty in the everyday plants all around us. Featuring more than 60 artists from around the world, the exhibitions convey the commitment of the ASBA to the longstanding tradition of botanical painting and the masterful blending of art and science.

A Natural Perspective: An International Juried Exhibition of the American Society of Botanical Artists, on view at Phoenix Art Museum, displays 40 botanical paintings by 35 ASBA artists. Including the works of four Arizona artists, *A Natural Perspective* showcases a wide variety of subjects and mediums including watercolor, oil painting, ink and graphite. One of the highlights of the exhibition is a work by artist Molly Coxson Gill illustrating *Mentzelia hualapaiensis*, a new-to-science plant discovered by Wendy Hodgson, Desert Botanical Garden botanist, in the Grand Canyon.

“It is a pleasure to present the Phoenix community with this juried exhibition of works by the American Society of Botanical Artists and to do so in collaboration with the Desert Botanical Garden brings even greater significance to the exhibition,” commented James Ballinger, The Sybil Harrington Director, Phoenix Art Museum. “There is a long tradition of botanical studies in the American West. As demonstrated by *A Natural Perspective*, Arizona botanical artists continue to contribute to the genre and find new species never before illustrated in the deserts of the Southwest.”

Legacy: An ASBA Exhibition of the Diane Bouchier Founders Award for Excellence in Botanical Art Recipients, presented at the Desert Botanical Garden, includes 26 botanical paintings by 13 artists from New York to California, England and Scotland. All of the exhibition artists have received the prestigious Diane Bouchier Founders Award for Excellence in Botanical Art. This stunning exhibition marks the first time their work has been exhibited in one venue.

“The garden is delighted to present this unique show for our members and visitors to enjoy. The tradition of botanical illustration, as both an art form and scientific tool, is integral to the Garden’s

mission. It is an honor for these works of art to be displayed at our institution,” commented Kenneth Schutz, The Dr. William Huizingh Executive Director, Desert Botanical Garden.

Legacy and A Natural Perspective are being held in conjunction with the 15th Annual ASBA Meeting and Conference, October 15-18, 2009, at the Desert Botanical Garden, Phoenix, AZ. Both exhibitions will be on view through January 3, 2010.

About the America Society of Botanical Artists

The ASBA is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the public awareness of the botanical art tradition and to furthering its development. The vision of the ASBA is to recognize and encourage the highest standards of botanical art created by its members; to create awareness of botanical art as a living form with exhibitions in major museums around the globe; to acknowledge the power of botanical art to communicate the importance of plants to our world whether through conservation, science, horticulture or agriculture; to pass this art form and its techniques on to the next generation of botanical artists; and to expand the vision of botanical art while honoring its rich tradition and history.

About Phoenix Art Museum

Phoenix Art Museum is the Southwest’s premier destination for world-class visual arts. Popular exhibitions featuring artists such as Rembrandt, Norman Rockwell, Annie Leibowitz and Monet are shown along side the Museum’s outstanding collection of more than 18,000 works of American, Asian, European, Latin American, Western American, modern and contemporary art, and fashion design. A community epicenter for nearly fifty years, Phoenix Art Museum presents festivals, live performances, independent art films and educational programs that enlighten, entertain and stimulate. Visitors also enjoy PhxArtKids an interactive space for children, vibrant photography exhibitions through the Museum’s landmark partnership with the Center for Creative Photography, the lushly landscaped Sculpture Garden, dining at Arcadia Farms at Phoenix Art Museum, and shopping at The Museum Store.

A Natural Perspective is organized by Phoenix Art Museum and the ASBA and will be on view in the Lyon Gallery October 3, 2009 through January 3, 2010.

Admission to the exhibition is included in general museum admission, which is \$10 for adults, \$8 for senior citizens (65+), \$8 for full-time college students with ID, \$4 for children ages 6-17 and free for children under 6 and for museum members.

Phoenix Art Museum is located in downtown Phoenix at the corner of Central Avenue and McDowell Road. Museum hours are Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m., Thursday thru Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, Noon – 5:00 p.m. The museum is closed on Mondays, Tuesdays and major holidays. Admission is free on Wednesdays from 3:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. and for everyone on First Fridays, 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

To learn more about Phoenix Art Museum, visit PhxArt.org, or call the 24-hour recorded information line at (602) 257-1222.

About Desert Botanical Garden

A “Phoenix Point of Pride,” the Desert Botanical Garden is one of only a few botanical gardens accredited by the American Association of Museums. It is a privately funded, non-profit organization and

depends on revenues from admissions and gift shop sales, as well as contributions from individuals and businesses to fund its programs of environmental education, plant conservation and research.

Legacy is organized by Desert Botanical Garden and the ASBA and will be presented in the Ottosen Gallery in Dorrance Hall from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. daily.

Admission to the exhibition is included in Garden admission, which is \$15 for adults, \$13.50 for senior citizens (60+), \$7.50 for students ages 13-18 and full-time college students with ID, \$5 for children ages 3-12 and free for children under 3 and for Garden members.

Desert Botanical Garden is located in Phoenix, Arizona, near the cities of Scottsdale and Tempe, at 1201 North Galvin Parkway, Phoenix, Arizona 85008. The Garden is open seven days a week, year round except for July 4, Thanksgiving Day and December 25. The Garden is open October thru May, 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. and June thru September, 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. During evening hours certain trails are closed.

To learn more about Desert Botanical Garden, visit dbg.org.

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