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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FRESH CUT

AN INTERNATIONAL JURIED EXHIBITION OF THE
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF BOTANICAL ARTISTS

EXHIBITION DATES: JUNE 25 THROUGH OCTOBER 9, 2005

FRESH CUT FEATURES THE BOTANICAL WORK OF 52 ARTISTS FROM THE UNITED STATES AS WELL AS INDIA, CANADA, ENGLAND, AND AUSTRALIA. JURORS SELECTED THE PAINTINGS AND DRAWINGS IN THIS EXHIBITION FROM 300 SLIDES SUBMITTED BY 107 ARTISTS FROM NEARLY EVERY CONTINENT. JURORS JUDGED THE WORKS BASED ON ACCURACY, AESTHETICS, AND TECHNICAL QUALITIES. FROM THE DELICATE VINING *BITTERSWEET*, A WATERCOLOR ON VELLUM BY KATE NESSLER, TO MARTHA KEMP'S GRAPHITE ILLUSTRATION OF THREE TROUT LILIES, THE EXHIBIT INCLUDES A DIVERSE COLLECTION OF PLANTS IN A WIDE VARIETY OF MEDIA.

THE BOTANICAL ART TRADITION

THE ART OF BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATION HAS BEEN PRACTICED SINCE ANTIQUITY, WITH PLANTS APPEARING DECORATIVELY AND FOR CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE IN EGYPTIAN TOMBS, ON VASES AND SCULPTURE, AND IN ANCIENT ROMAN MOSAICS AND PAINTINGS. IN MEDIEVAL TIMES HERBALISTS ILLUSTRATED MEDICINAL PLANTS, DETAILING THEIR CURATIVE POWERS. THE RENAISSANCE SAW THE BIRTH OF BOTANICAL REALISM WITH MASTERS SUCH AS LEONARDO DA VINCI

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AND ALBRECHT DURER PRODUCING EXTRAORDINARY DRAWINGS AND PAINTINGS OF PLANT SUBJECTS. THESE SERVED THE NEEDS OF ART AND SCIENCE, COMBINING EXACTING REALISM WITH AN AESTHETIC UNDER-STANDING OF THE PLANT.

IN THE AGE OF EXPLORATION, AS NEW WORLDS WERE DISCOVERED, THE BOTANICAL ARTIST WAS AN IRREPLACEABLE PART OF EVERY EXPEDITION, PROVIDING DOCUMENTATION OF ENTIRE FAMILIES OF PLANTS. ON RETURNING HOME, THESE ARTISTS USED THEIR FIELD SKETCHES AND PAINSTAKINGLY PREPARED HERBARIUM SHEETS TO CREATE HUGELY POPULAR MONOGRAPHS THAT CATALOGED THE SIGHTS OF EXCITING TOURS, ENABLING SCIENTISTS AND LAYPERSONS ALIKE TO RELIVE THE JOURNEY.

A CONTEMPORARY RENAISSANCE IN BOTANICAL ART

THE CONTEMPORARY BOTANICAL ARTIST BUILDS ON THESE TRADITIONS TO PRODUCE IMAGES SEAMLESSLY BLENDING OLD AND NEW, SCIENTIFIC FACTS WITH AESTHETICS, RESULTING IN WORKS THAT BLOOM GRACEFULLY AND ENDLESSLY. IT TAKES A TRAINED EYE AND MUCH SKILL TO PRODUCE A RENDERING OF A PLANT THAT NOT ONLY REPRODUCES THE REALITY OF THE PLANT IN STRUCTURE AND FORM, BUT ILLUMINATES THE GRACE, TEXTURES AND DETAILS THAT INFORM AND DELIGHT THE VIEWER.

JURORS FOR THIS YEAR'S EXHIBITION WERE LYNDEL KING, KATIE LEE, AND MARGARET SAUL.

THE WEISMAN ART MUSEUM IS LOCATED AT 333 EAST RIVER ROAD IN MINNEAPOLIS. MUSEUM HOURS ARE TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, AND FRIDAY, 10 A.M. TO 5 P.M.; THURSDAY 10 A.M. TO 8 P.M.; WEEKENDS 11 A.M. TO 5 P.M.; CLOSED MONDAYS. PUBLIC PARKING IS AVAILABLE IN THE MUSEUM RAMP AT A RATE OF \$2.50 PER HOUR OR A FLAT RATE OF \$5.00 ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY. THERE IS NO ADMISSION FEE TO THE WEISMAN. FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 612-625-9494.

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