

BSBA Newsletter April 2023



Spring is here at last, the leaf buds are bursting and trees blossoming although from the weather some days it would be hard to tell. Mid-March saw the reopening of the American Museum Gardens which are at present showing a spectacular array of spring bulbs.

Anybody who has chosen to paint spring flowers for the 2024 exhibition would do well to visit now!

Above: Spring flowers in the American Museum Gardens

As most members will already know, long-standing BSBA member Daphne Neate passed away in March:

From Jan:

Sadly dear Daphne Neate died on 3rd March. She had been unwell for some time and had spent the last few weeks in a care home. As a BSBA member for many years she was always very supportive of all we did and was a regular attendee at Winsley Church Hall. She was such a kind and thoughtful person, always cheerful and interested in others and what they were doing. She produced a wonderful book of her British native tree paintings which, along with her many beautiful paintings of flowers, will be a lasting reminder of a lovely person - we will all miss her but remember her with great fondness.

Our thoughts are with Dennis at this time.

Celia reports:

We were very happy to welcome Sarah Morrish back for a workshop on 17th March. She last visited us at the end of January 2020, and little did we know then what the following months would bring. During the lockdown restrictions Sarah was, and still is, teaching online. As well as being our first workshop this year, and at St Andrews, it was the first that Sarah had taught in person in 2023. The subject for the day was 'Illustrating Seashore Discoveries in Pen and Ink'. We started by looking at a flowchart – LINE SHAPE TONAL VALUES FORM. A handout illustrated tonal values and mark making and Sarah emphasised that we should think of the purpose of the marks and the appropriate size of nib to make them. A subject

can be outlined and then absorbed by filling in the details which are about layers of mark making, not pressure, and making sure that you do not go too dark too soon. We discussed materials and Pigma Micron fine line pens in black and sepia were recommended in sizes 003, 005, and 01. They are also now available in an assortment of colours. Sarah brought samples of a variety of surfaces which included an Ampersand Basswood panel, coloured tan, on which she had drawn a wonderful starfish. A textured surface made of 100% cotton rag was to be found on Khadi paper and a pad of mixed coloured paper produced by Stonehenge. Sarah also uses 300, 400 and 500 series Strathmore Bristol Paper. The 400 series is available with both a smooth and vellum finish.

Sarah demonstrated mark making techniques using an illustration she is working on of seashore finds. We were shown how to achieve the effect of a very dark piece of seaweed and also the concave inside of a spider crab shell. We were then able to choose a subject from her collection of seashore discoveries and put all we had learned into practice. We are looking forward to the publication of Sarah's second book, probably next year, which she is currently working on, the subject of which is going to be botanical.



Above: Sarah Morrish demonstrating her drawing skills at the workshop

For those of us who will not get to this year's **SBA Plantae 2023 at The Mall Galleries**, London in May here is a preview of two works by **Josie White** that have been accepted to hang in the exhibition:



Cynara cardunculus left and *Cucurbita pepo ovifera* right

Julia Trickey is continuing her resoundingly popular series of Botanical Art Talks this year. You can view further details of the talks and how to sign up for them on her website: www.juliatrickey.co.uk Speakers this series include amongst others: Bridget Gillespie, Simon Williams, Carol Woodin and Wendy Hollander, with subjects ranging from painting food plants and crop diversity to painting to enter competitions and exhibitions. Bookings can be made during April for the **special price of £8** instead of the usual price of £12 so be sure to book soon!

One interesting piece of information from Bobbi Angell's Botanical Talk last week was how few illustrations Darwin included in his published books. Bobbi has teamed up with evolutionary botanist James Costa to create a beautifully illustrated volume resulting in a new way of visualising Darwin's words in the context of the knowledge and research of the time. ***Darwin and the Art of Botany*** collects writings from his often overlooked texts devoted entirely to plants and pairs them with beautiful botanical art from the library at the Oak Spring Garden Foundation. Published by Timber Press, it is due out on 17 October 2023.

From Lyn:

I just wondered if members know about this wholesale nursery which opens its doors to the public a couple of times a year. Tip: If you are looking for specific plants make a note of the Latin names and take them with you.

WEST KINGTON NURSERIES
SPRING PLANT SALE WEEKEND 2023

Saturday 22nd April - 9am-5pm
Sunday 23rd April - 10am-4pm

What makes these Public Sale Days so special:
Huge choice of perennials, shrubs, trees, climbers, bedding and topiary

Free Entry and car parking
Refreshments this year include a hot food van!
Experts on hand to answer your questions
A great morning out for all the family and dog friendly
Catalogues sold in aid of local charities and organisations

Follow the Plant Sale signs from the A420, post code SN14 7JQ

Dates for your diary

22 April – 24 June: Bath Society of Artists Annual Open Exhibition: Victoria Art Gallery, Bath

27 April – BSBA AGM

4 May – NO Painting. Meet at 10.30 American Museum

18 May – Handing in of Calendar paintings

16 – 20 May: SBA Exhibition: Mall Galleries, London

9 June: BSBA Workshop with Julia Trickey – details to follow

16 June – 9 July: RHS Botanical Art Exhibition: Saachi Gallery, London

Open until 17 September at The Shirley Sherwood Gallery Kew: *Plants from the Qur'an* by Sue Wickison. Also at Kew running until 17 September: *All the Flowers are for Me* exhibition and *The wonderful world of water plants*.

May I also remind members that to avoid duplication of plants being painted for the 2024 exhibition a list is being kept on the members' section of the BSBA Website. Please consult the list before choosing and let me know the name of your plant which I can then add to the list. Also, you may like to sign up for monthly notifications from The American Museum on their website to keep abreast of the seasonal activities there. (Janet)

Don't forget the BSBA AGM 11.00 am at St. Andrews on 27 April.