

W-13 Botanical art as a tool to bring people closer to nature

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Duration: 90 minutes

Target audience: Botanic garden staff who are involved with botanical art, archival collections, libraries, education.

Objectives: The workshop will allow botanic gardens professionals to discuss how they make or could make use of their institution's botanical art collections for education and outreach and share ideas on how to make best use of these often under-utilised collections.

Abstract: Botanic gardens serve as living museums of the natural world, showcasing the immense diversity of plant life while also preserving and protecting rare and endangered species. Integral to these gardens are their botanical art collections, often accumulated over centuries. These are a lasting documentation of artistic excellence and past and present research focuses. These collections are rarely displayed or used for education purposes.

Botanical art collections in botanic gardens can be a powerful tool for education and outreach. They provide a unique opportunity for the public to engage with botanical science and conservation in a visually captivating manner. They can be incorporated into educational programmes for students of all ages, offering hands-on learning experiences that stimulate curiosity and foster a deeper appreciation for the natural world. Additionally, these collections can be used to raise awareness about plant conservation efforts, highlighting the importance of preserving threatened species and their habitats.

The Singapore Botanic Gardens (SBG) made its botanical art collections accessible to a wide audience by opening the Botanical Art Gallery in 2021. Through exhibitions, workshops, and guided tours, the Gallery's goal is to ignite a passion for plants and instil a sense of responsibility towards their protection and stewardship for future generations.

The workshop will include three sections:

1. A brief introduction about botanical art at SBG and the Botanical Art Gallery
2. Hands on activity in the form of leaf printing, which is one of the popular public activities at the Botanical Art Gallery
3. Group discussion on implementation, scope and feasibility of botanical art displays at botanic gardens