BLOSSOM

ART OF FLOWERS

SPONSORED BY

Susan Kathleen Black
FOUNDATION
BLOSSOM
ART OF FLOWERS

AN INTERNATIONAL ART COMPETITION & MUSEUM EXHIBITION

SPONSORED & ORGANIZED BY THE

Susan Kathleen Black
FOUNDATION
Tour Itinerary at time of printing
(For updates please visit www.susankblackfoundation.org)

David J. Wagner, Ph.D.
Curator/Tour Director

Be sure to check with museums for dates and hours of admission.

PREMIERE

HOUSTON MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCE
March 17 - June 17, 2007
1 Hermann Circle Dr.
Houston, TX 77030
(713) 639-4629; hmns.org

TOUR VENUES

NEVILLE PUBLIC MUSEUM
July 21 - September 16, 2007
210 Museum Place
Green Bay, WI 54303
(920) 448-4460; nevillepublicmuseum.org

ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM ART INSTITUTE
January 1 - March 31, 2008
2021 N Kinney Road
Tucson AZ 85743
(520) 883-2702; desertmuseum.org

THE R.W. NORTON ART GALLERY
May 13 – August 3, 2008
4747 Creswell Avenue
Shreveport, LA 71106
(318) 865-4201; rwnaf.org

THE WILDLIFE EXPERIENCE
August 30 - Nov. 2, 2008
10035 South Peoria Street
Parker, CO 80134
(720) 488-3300; thewildlifeexperience.org

THE DIXON GALLERY AND GARDENS
January 25 - March 22, 2009
4339 Park Avenue
Memphis, TN 38117
(901) 761-5250; dixon.org

THE SPARTANBURG COUNTY MUSEUM OF ART
April 18 - June 14, 2009
385 S Spring Street
Spartanburg, SC 29306
(864) 582-7616; spartanburgartmuseum.org

BLOSSOM ~ ART OF FLOWERS is available for display at Museums and Educational and Scientific Institutions such as Botanical Gardens.
To schedule BLOSSOM ~ ART OF FLOWERS contact:
DAVID J. WAGNER, L.L.C., TOUR OFFICE
(414) 221-6878; davidjwagnerllc@yahoo.com
Dear Friends and Supporters of Blossom ~ Art of Flowers,

I am so grateful and thrilled that the painting Harkness Rose is included in this great exhibition of outstanding art produced by some of the finest artists in the world. This is one of several large rose paintings created by my late wife Susan Kathleen Black. In her short but prolific career, she painted the things she most loved: flowers, wildlife, and the beauty she saw in nature. Susan Kathleen was a wonderful and beautiful person and now many will experience her creative energy through Blossom ~ Art of Flowers, this ambitious undertaking by the Susan Kathleen Black Foundation.

The story of this exhibition can be traced back through the efforts of Claudia Lampe and Pam Dean Cable in creating the Foundation, and the inspiration of Dr. David Wagner in proposing the project, as well as to the dedicated work of many very talented individuals and supporters along the multi-year path leading up to the opening of the show. The vision of Joel Bartsch and Trey Strake of the Houston Museum of Natural Science was pivotal in making this event possible. And the professionalism and high standards of our distinguished panel of jurors who have so thoughtfully considered the hundreds of entries will be evident to thousands of people having access to this exhibition. Bringing Blossom ~ Art of Flowers to fruition has been a great adventure. Now everyone, please enjoy.

To all of you contributing to this marvelous event I express my most sincere appreciation. And to the many, many artists participating in the process and offering this outpouring of tremendous talent, thank you for helping us honor the memory of Susan Kathleen Black.

Sincerely,

James E. Parkman
Founder
Susan Kathleen Black Foundation
INTRODUCTION

NEED: In the world of floral art, there has not been a recent, major competition or exhibition equivalent to the blockbusters of other specialty subjects such as animals, birds, national parks, or the West. *Blossom ~ Art of Flowers* was conceived to fill this void and showcase the quality and diversity of the best work with a floral theme being produced today.

CONCEPT: Flowers were a favorite theme of artist Susan Kathleen Black (1948–2000). The mission of the Susan Kathleen Black Foundation is art education. The concept of an international, juried art competition and exhibition, the purpose of which is to recognize creative achievement in current art with a floral theme, was a natural outgrowth of this fortuitous combination. To encourage participation, the Susan Kathleen Black Foundation opened the competition to all artists, promoted it worldwide, and offered generous awards. To ensure quality selections, it assembled not one, but two juries of top-notch experts. To share the resulting exhibition with audiences nationwide, and to document *Blossom ~ Art of Flowers*, a museum tour was organized and this catalogue was published.

DEFINITION: During initial preparations for *Blossom ~ Art of Flowers*, one of the first questions that came up was, “Just what is a flower?” Definitions seemed as abundant as types and varieties of flowers themselves. This range, drawn from a quick search on Google, is representative:

1. flower -- a plant cultivated for its blooms or blossoms
2. flower, bloom, blossom -- reproductive organ of angiosperm plants especially one having showy or colorful parts.
3. flower, prime, peak, heyday, bloom, blossom, efflorescence, flush -- the period of greatest prosperity or productivity.
4. Strictly, an angiospermous reproductive structure bearing pistils or stamens or both, and usually sepals and petals. The so-called flower of conifers is the male or female strobilus before and during pollination.
5. The reproductive part of a plant that is colorful and makes seeds.

CONTEXT: Flowers have been portrayed by artists for centuries. Perhaps the most lovely and revered in classical western art are those in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Dutch and Flemish still-life paintings. Early modern art is replete with floral imagery of another kind. Think of the exuberant irises, poppies, and sunflowers of the idiosyncratic, post-impressionist painter Vincent Van Gogh (1853-1890), and the billowy-colored flowers of German expressionist Emil Nolde (1867-1956), whose art was eventually banned by the Nazis because they considered it degenerate. In the middle of the Twentieth Century, flowers served as a source of inspiration for one of America’s most well-known and beloved female artists Georgia O’Keeffe (1887-1986). Much by way of allegory has been read into her paintings. Of course, flowers have been prominent in art of other cultures and traditions, too; art of Asia with its many cultures comes to mind, as do traditions such as western, scientific botanical illustration. My point here is,
flowers have been a subject of art and a source of inspiration for artists around the world for time immemorial. These days, flowers inspire artists as much as ever, as evidenced by the floral art of the 970 artists from fourteen countries who submitted 1,742 entries to this competition.

CRITERIA: Only flat, two-dimensional art could be submitted to this competition, but this encompassed a wide array of media including: oil, acrylic, watercolor, pastel, gouache, mixed media, pencil, pen and ink, tempura, batik, alkyd, scratchboard, hand-pulled lithographs, woodcuts, etchings, engravings, and serigraphs. Also, size restrictions were placed on entries (due to space limitations at The Houston Museum of Natural Science). To guide members of the jury in their selections, they received the following instructions before they began their task of narrowing the field down to sixty-one:

1. Quality should be given first priority. This should be based at least in part on:
   a.) creative composition and design
   b.) competent technique and handling of media
   c.) overall strength of individual artworks
   d.) ability to capture the essence of the floral subject

2. Diversity of final selections should be prioritized next, with consideration given to:
   a.) inclusion of different types and varieties of flowers
   b.) worldwide geographic distribution
   c.) diversity of medium and styles and techniques
   d.) diversity of imagery

3. Flowers may be combined with other subject matter including portraiture, landscapes, still-lifes, animals, historical subjects, etc., but the essence of selected artworks must be floral in nature.

CONCLUSION: I hope the information contained in this brief introduction will add to your enjoyment of the artworks depicted in this catalogue. As Curator and Tour Director, I also hope that you are one of the privileged few who will have the opportunity to view Blossom ~ Art of Flowers firsthand at any of the venues on the tour, so that you will have the kind of authentic, memorable experience I was so fortunate to have at the exhibition's premiere.

David J. Wagner, Ph.D.
Curator/Tour Director

David J. Wagner is President of a limited liability corporation that produces traveling exhibitions and provides curatorial, educational, and museum management services nationwide. He has produced tours of ART AND THE ANIMAL for the prestigious Society of Animal Artists in New York City for twenty years and has served as Curator for THE HORSE IN FINE ART of the American Academy of Equine Art for the past five years. Among his upcoming exhibitions are THE ART OF ROBERT BATEMAN and PAWS AND REFLECT: ART OF CANINES. Dr. Wagner has taught Museum Studies at Björklunden, Lawrence University's Campus in Door County, WI; Colorado College; and the Museum Studies Department of the Graduate School of New York University.
PREFACE

The Susan Kathleen Black Foundation

The Susan Kathleen Black Foundation grew out of a memorial fund established in 2001 by James E. Parkman in honor of his late wife, Texas artist Susan Kathleen Black. Since then the Foundation has endeavored to expand upon its original mission – art education, by providing grants, offering art exhibitions, events, and educational programs that raise public awareness and appreciation for art. The Foundation seeks to support and provide inspiring environments for artists at any age or level of experience.

*Blossom~Art of Flowers* is a natural outgrowth of the desire to honor artistic excellence as well as provide the public with the opportunity to experience some of the finest floral artwork available internationally today.

Susan Kathleen's favorite subject to paint and the one for which she was best known was florals. Therefore, it seemed completely natural that the Foundation would respond with enthusiasm to Dr. David Wagner's proposal to sponsor and produce this important competition, exhibition, and museum tour. We acknowledge with thanks the enormous task before our renowned panel of judges, who first selected 61 of 1742 exceptional entries to represent a broad interpretive range of this time-honored subject, and who then selected from that group our prize winners.

Susan Kathleen Black

Susan Kathleen Black was a fascinating woman and artist. Whether depicting the delicacy of a rose or the majesty of an elephant, Susan Kathleen brought the essence of her subjects to life through her paintings. Her all-too-brief life is a crowning testimonial to selfless friendships, unrelenting determination, and boundless dedication. Beginning her art career at the age of 42, Susan Kathleen studied and painted as though all the images that had gone unexpressed since childhood were begging to be born. Unafraid of taking risks or experimenting, Susan Kathleen painted with a free spirit, eager to find her own unique voice as an artist. What she brought forth was a vital creativity that continued to reinvent itself throughout her life.

Susan Kathleen was much loved and admired. For some she became a role model and an inspiration, for not only did she dare to dream, she also had the discipline that brought those dreams to reality. She was a person of uncommon caring, making those in her life feel special and loved.

The Foundation seeks to bring her spirit into each of its programs and projects.

Pam Dean Cable
Executive Director
Susan Kathleen Black Foundation
From 1,742 entries submitted by 970 artists from fourteen countries, these 61 pieces of art were selected by our distinguished panel of judges

M. Stephen Doherty, Editor-in-Chief, American Artist Magazine

Susan T. Fisher, Director, The Art Institute at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum
President, American Society of Botanical Artists

James L. Johnson, Director and Distinguished Lecturer, Benz School of Floral Design and Benz Gallery of Floral Art, Texas A & M University

Michael Maunder, Ph.D., Director, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, Miami, FL

Susan McGarry, Independent Curator and Author, Past Editor of Southwest Art Magazine

Fay Moore, Artist, National Arts Club, New York, NY,
Pastel Society of America, American Association of Equine Artists,

Valerie Loupe Olsen, Curator of Exhibitions and Associate Director of the Glassell School of Art, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

Morten E. Solberg, Nationally Renowned Artist, Society of Animal Artists,
American Watercolor Society
Milly Acharya
Ithaca, NY

Tropaeolum Majus
watercolor
13 1/2" x 10 1/2"
Columbine

Dianne Aigaki
Minneapolis, MN

Private Gardens (India)
watercolor
16 1/8" x 12 1/8"
Nasturtium
Shin Young An
West New York, NJ

Reunion
oil on mixed media
22” x 26”
Carnation & Daisies

Beth Avary
Boulder Creek, CA

Summer’s End
oil on canvas
18” x 24”
Thistles
Kenn Backhaus
Robesonia, PA

Angel Trumpets
oil on linen  24” x 20”

Mitch Baird
West Linn, OR

Pink Bloom
oil  16” x 20”
Camelia
Stacy Barter
Winter Park, FL
My Grandmother
Dreams in Peonies
oil on linen
22” x 28”

Ricardo Beaton
The Bronx, NY
Cadmium
oil on linen 20” x 27”
Orchid
Naomi Campbell
Brooklyn, NY

*Summer's Breath*
Oil on canvas
30” x 15”
Firescape Garden

Harry Breen
Champaign, IL

*Purple-Leaf Plum*
Oil on linen
14” x 11”
Kim Carlton
The Woodlands, TX

Parrot Tulips
oil
12” x 14”

Celia Crampton
Oxfordshire
United Kingdom

Crown Imperial Lily
watercolor
12” x 8”
Linda Daniels
Locust Grove, OK

Rainy Days and Sundays
oil/photo realism
20” x 30”
Mock Orange

Jeanne DeHaan
Milford, MI

Hydrangea
watercolor
14” x 20”
Melanie Fain
Boerne, TX

Bronze Fennel &
Green Clearwing
watercolor
8” x 5”

Dennis Farris
Fort Worth, TX

Big Bend Bloom
oil 30” x 20”
Christmas Cholla
Catherine Giudicy
New Port Richey, FL

**Columbine**
graphite & charcoal
21” x 16”

Pria Graves
Palo Alto, CA

**Masterwort**
watercolor
16” x 12”
Stephen Kenneth Hackley  
Richardson, TX  

Reverence II  
oil on canvas  24” x 18”  
Gerber Daisies

Dirk Hagner  
San Juan Capistrano, CA  

I Am The Dung On  
Which These  
Flowers Grew  
etching-original print  
16” x 20”  
Sunflowers
Caren E. Heine
Alberta, Canada

Urbino Roses
watercolor
27½” x 20”

Mark Hemleben
Jerome, AZ

Sweet Rose
oil on canvas panel
8” x 6”
Jelu A. Iliov
Phoenix, AZ

Sunflower
oil on board
13 5/8” x 19 7/8”

Kathy Jublou
Norfolk, VA

Passion Dance
oil and pastels
27 1/4” x 21 1/2”
Orchid
Phalaenopsis Hybrid
Jacqueline Kamin
Newport Beach, CA

Ming Vase & Bloom
oil on panel
8 1/2” x 12”

Jeffrey Larson
Maple, WI

Dandelion Bouquet
oil on panel
10” x 8”
Dana Levin
Pawtucket, RI

Hydrangeas
oil
20” x 16”

Ara Leites
Santa Cruz, CA

Blossoms
pencil, pen and ink, colored pencil
21” x 16 1/2”
Tuberose, Jasmine, White Lilac
Joan Lok
Columbia, MD

The Song of Spring
watercolor
on rice paper
18” x 27”
Peonies

Jeanne Mackenzie
LaPorte, CO

Trumpet’s Lambent Light
oil
24” x 20”
Angel Trumpets
Ann Makuck
Rockland, ME

Narcissus Ziva
watercolor
16 1/4” x 12”

Jane McCreary
Tucson, AZ

Glowing
colored pencil
and solvent
on pastel paper
10 1/2” x 15 3/4”
Torch Cacti
Dianne McElwain
Cincinnati, OH

Hibiscus Coccineus
watercolor
30” x 22”

Anne T. McGrory
Nashua, NH

Raspberry Sorbet Peony
pastel on paper
10¼” x 8”
Alix Mosieur  
Lorane, OR  
End of Summer  
colored pencil  
16” x 20”  
Sunflowers  
gone to seed

B. B. Nelson  
Gray, ME  
Garden Flowers  
oil  
14” x 20”  
Sunflower  
Aster ‘China’  
Phlox  
Chrysanthemum ‘Kermit’
Joy Nguyen
Dallas, TX

Nodding Thistle
soft pastel and colored pencil
11” x 14”

Nancy Pace
Laguna Hills, CA

Pulsatory Silence
acrylic on canvas
24” x 18”
Sweet Peas, Bachelor Buttons
Paula Parks
Shoreline, WA

Northwest Spring
colored pencil
16” x 20”
Rhododendron Bloom

Annie Patterson
Surrey, United Kingdom

Orange Canna
Watercolor on paper
18” x 11”
Woodward Payne
Mill Valley, CA

Coral Dahlia
oil 24” x 24”

Linda Petchnick
Enumclaw, WA

Angreacum Sesquipedale
watercolor
22” x 18”
Orchid
Kyle Polzin
Bellaire, TX

Inflorescence
oil
16” x 32”
Phalaenopsis Orchid

Ruth Ray
Scottsville, VA

Wild Geranium/Common Sulphur
watercolor gouache over acrylic
12 1/2” x 5”
Scott B. Royston
Baltimore, MD

White Daisies
oil on panel
11” x 12”

Amy Sadle
Syracuse, NE

Cacti Bloom
reduction woodcut
monoprint/watercolor
20” x 15”
Lizzie Sanders
Edinburgh
United Kingdom

**Tradescantia**
**Virginiana Isis**
watercolor on paper
13 1/2” x 13 1/2”

Wes Siegrist
Townsend, TN

**Catawba**
**Rhododendron**
watercolor/gouache
3 3/4” x 3 3/4”
Grace S. Smith
San Francisco, CA

Viola Purpurea
watercolor
6 1/2” x 5”

Sharon L. Sprung
Brooklyn, NY

Hyacinth/Tulip
oil
18” x 24”
Lexi Sundell  
Ennis, MT  

**Orchid at Night**  
acrylics  
16” x 19”  
Phalaenopsis Orchid

Soegito Sutiono  
Jakarta, Indonesia  

**The Legend of Beauty**  
oil on canvas  
27.6” x 23.6”  
Roses
Vivian Thierfelder  
Alberta, Canada  

**Pavan Tropical**  
watercolor  
30” x 14 3/4”  
Hibiscus, Anthrium, Torch Ginger  

Fred W. Thomas  
Shoreline, WA  

**The Color of Paradise**  
oil  
16” x 20”  
Bird of Paradise
Jeannetta vanRaalte  
Brooklyn, NY  
**Cockscombs**  
watercolor  
23 1/2” x 12”

Elizabeth von Isser  
Oro Valley, AZ  
**Shadow Play**  
acrylic on canvas  
30” x 20”  
Gold Poppy
Soon Y. Warren  
Fort Worth, TX

**Purple Heart**  
watercolor on paper  
29” x 21”  
Banana Flower

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Soon Y. Warren  
Fort Worth, TX

**Yellow and Magenta**  
watercolor on paper  
29” x 21”  
Bougainvillia
Marc Whitney  
San Clemente, CA

**Floral**
oil on canvas  24” x 18”
Solid Asters, Carnations

Sherrie Wolf  
Portland, OR

**Tulips with Horseshoe Falls**
oil on canvas  36” x 18”

Caroline Jones Winters  
Germantown, TN

**All Present and Accounted For**
watercolor  18” x 36”
Aeostdijk Daffodils
Comments from the Jurors

Such talent! And so much of it in one place! I feel the exhibit will simply be a feast for the eyes. In my lifelong pursuit of the art of arranging fresh flowers, three “Elements of Excellence” have been a guiding light for me. They are Distinction, Originality, and Individuality. I looked for those qualities in each composition. In addition I found that each selected entry offers a wonderful expression of emotion. A work of art is successful, to me, when the viewer can feel that emotion.

James L. Johnson
Director, Benz School of Floral Design, Distinguished Lecturer, Department of Horticultural Sciences, AAF, AIFD, TMFA

My primary criteria were the artist's craftsmanship, knowledge of aesthetics, and skilled handling of the materials used in capturing the details or the essence of the subject. Running a very close second to these formal qualities was a more elusive judgment about content or the meaning that underlies the subject's physical presence. Content ranged from an obsession for understanding the science of flowers to a delight in storytelling and a passion for expressing the beauty, elegance, and complexity of nature and its cycles. Because flowers also have an inherent decorative quality, I was also drawn to artists who used that aesthetic in original ways.

Susan Hallsten McGarry
Past Editor of Southwest Art Magazine, now Independent Curator and Author

The botanical works range from the historically, botanically correct to a contemporary artistic take of these works and their function. The photorealistic compositions define this aesthetic, dripping with water droplets and giving off fragrance. Beyond these two approaches, other judged-in works empower the flower over its world – a lowly cactus flower is given monumentality over the majestic mountain landscape in which it finds itself. Blooms in grandiose still-life compositions are treated as imperial objects and given superiority by strategically placing them in foregrounds, while backgrounds evoke wilderness settings. In other chosen pieces, the very essence of flowering is captured in the bursting stroke of the brush or pallet knife.

Valerie Loupe Olsen
Associate Director of The Glassell School of Art, The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

This exhibit is a strong statement of the diversity of floral art. The range of the exhibition is strong and the quality is superb. This is a wonderful tribute to a wonderful woman.

Morten E. Solberg
Internationally Renowned Artist, AWS, SAA