

**University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum (MLA) – Andersen Horticultural Library (AHL)  
Flora and Fauna Illustrata (FFI)**

Call Type: **Archival & Exhibition**

Eligibility: **International**

City: **Chaska**

State: **Minnesota**

Fee: **No Fee**

Participation Deadline: **Ongoing**

The mission of the Flora and Fauna Illustrata project is to document the plants, animals, insects, and fungi of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum (MLA) through scientifically accurate fine art. Artists from around the world are invited to show us the best of the MLA flora and fauna that inspire them, and donate their work to our permanent collection. Sometimes we put out calls for specific types of plants or animals, which will be found on the FFI website, but we are always accepting entries for any plant, animal, insect, or fungus found on the 1,200+ acres of the MLA or the University of Minnesota Horticultural Research Center (HRC).

The Andersen Horticultural Library (AHL) permanently documents and archives the donated art and facilitates periodic exhibitions of it. Newly accepted work and work related to a certain theme will be shown in our annual FFI exhibition in the Skyway Gallery, connecting the Snyder Building to the Visitor Center, at the MLA. Check the Exhibits section on the AHL website for the exact dates of this exhibition each year, it is usually mid-summer to late fall. All accepted FFI work will also be digitized and available to view on UMedia at any time. The library will also host a Meet the Artists web page on our website, where each FFI artist is featured with a short biography they send in to the FFI Coordinator, as well as up to three samples of their work and a place for the artist's website and/or contact information if they so wish.

**DESCRIPTION**

This juried project is open to all artists. Individual artists working in any two-dimensional medium (excluding photography and digital art) are strongly encouraged to submit work. Artwork selected to be added to the FFI collection through the jury process will become property of the University of Minnesota and will be exhibited periodically, both physically and online. Artists will retain some rights to use their artwork, which is specified in the FFI-Artist Agreement, also available as a PDF on the FFI website. A high-resolution scan of jury-accepted artwork will be provided by AHL to the artist for their personal not-for-profit use.

**SPECIFICATIONS**

Artworks will be selected to represent a whole species, its parts (fruit, flowers, branches, etc.), and/or its seasonal forms. Duplicate submissions will not be considered once a species, including all its parts and seasonal forms, are represented.

- Select a species growing at or passing through the MLA or HRC, then view the Taken Species List on the FFI website to check availability of the species or its parts, to avoid duplicates in the collection.
- Artists must contact the FFI Coordinator, via email or through the Artist Inquiry google form on the FFI website, once they have chosen a species to depict. The FFI Coordinator will

double check that this species is still available, and if it is, they will add the artist's information to AHL's records and mark the species they have chosen down as taken, so another artist cannot represent the same species or part of a species.

- Artists must render a plant, animal, insect, or fungus from the grounds of the MLA or HRC. A specimen or photograph of the species can usually be provided to the artist upon request, via the Specimen Request google form on the FFI website. However, artists are encouraged to come to the MLA and draw or paint from life, and/or take their own photographs for reference, from many different angles.
- Artists are strongly encouraged to conduct some light research about the species they have chosen to depict to learn about its scientific traits, to the extent that they can then represent that species in a scientifically accurate way. Drawing from only one individual or one photograph of one individual can result in a submission being rejected by the scientific juror(s) during the jury process because that one individual might have traits that are not usual for that species, or the one photograph an artist worked from may not accurately show the species' traits. Submissions are meant to represent a single species, not just a single individual. Artists are encouraged to contact the FFI Coordinator for help conducting this research and finding scientific resources about the species they have chosen to depict. AHL has tons of these kinds of resources, about plants, animals, insects, and fungi!
- Submissions of species that occur at the MLA, but that the specific specimens the artist used for reference were not from the MLA, will still be juried as usual, but if accepted will be added to the FFI collection and considered "supplemental". This is largely an internal designation just for our archival records, and supplemental works are cared for and exhibited as usual with the rest of the FFI artworks.
- It is not necessary to illustrate the entire life cycle of the species, but some artists choose to do so.
- If the image is not life-sized, a bar scale must be included.
- Each submission should represent a single species, but subordinate organisms that occur naturally with that species may be included, such as a bumblebee on a certain species of flower. Artists may also include other background species to create a sense of context for where the organism is found outside.

**Media Accepted:** Two-dimensional original artwork, excluding photography and digital art.

**Genre Accepted:** Scientifically accurate images. No landscapes.

**Size:** Works should be submitted unframed and unmatted. Art may be vertically or horizontally orientated and must fit in one of the following frame sizes:

- 16" x 20"
- 20" x 24"
- 24" x 30"

Diptychs, triptychs, etc. are acceptable, with each piece not exceeding 24" x 30" framed.

Both the scientific and common names of the selected species, as well as the artist's name, should be written on the back of the artwork.

Interested artists have the option of attending a free informational session and tour (60 minutes maximum) at AHL. During this session, participants will learn more about the FFI project, AHL and the MLA, and have a chance to view pieces in the FFI collection and other art from AHL's rare book collection. Artists can request to work with a Field Project Leader, experienced participating FFI artists, if additional assistance is desired. Please contact the FFI Coordinator via email for both of these things.

### **SUBMITTING ARTWORK TO BE JURIED**

Finished artwork of an MLA species, with photographs and any other materials used for reference, must be submitted to the Andersen Horticultural Library in a clear mylar envelope to protect the work. Artists can contact the FFI Coordinator to set up a time to drop off their art, or they can simply bring it into AHL anytime during open hours, which are listed on AHL's main website; all Library staff are aware of the FFI project and what to do for an artist when they come in to drop off their artwork.

Original artworks will be submitted by the FFI Coordinator to a jury consisting of at least one scientific expert in the subject field, at least one artist in the subject field, and at least one representative of the MLA-AHL. Juries will meet once each spring and each autumn to review submissions. Artists will be notified by email within three days after the jury whether their work was selected for inclusion in the FFI collection, and any follow-up instructions for the artist will be included in this notification.

All artists who submit work to the FFI collection are eligible for a reduced annual membership rate to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. Please ask the FFI Coordinator about this if this is something you are interested in.

Artists interested in submitting work to the Flora and Fauna Illustrata should fill out the Artist Inquiry google form on the FFI website. For further information or questions, please contact the Andersen Horticultural Library: [hortlib@umn.edu](mailto:hortlib@umn.edu) or 612-301-1239. For more information about the Flora and Fauna Illustrata project, to view digitized FFI works, and to learn more about participating FFI artists, visit <https://www.lib.umn.edu/spaces/ahl/ffi>.