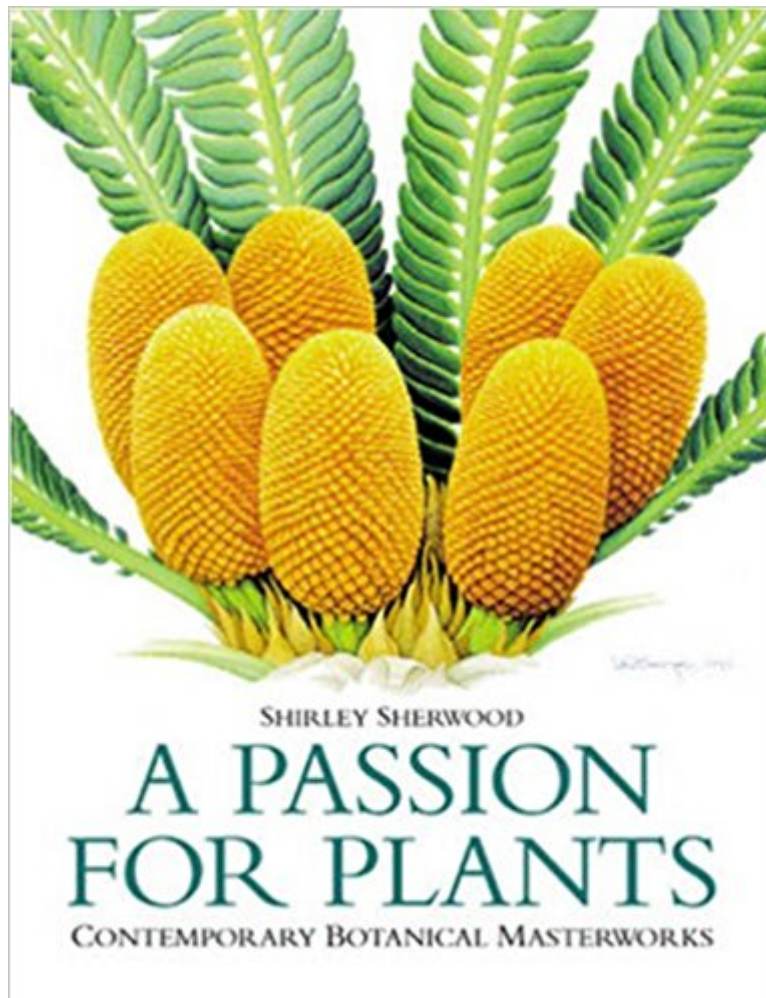




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# A Passion For Plants: Contemporary Botanical Masterworks



## Synopsis

“International interest in this distinctive art form was renewed by Sherwood, whose personal collection is considered the world’s most comprehensive. Captivating and commanding, this opulent compilation superbly show-cases vivid new interpretations of familiar subjects.”  
•Booklist. “Equally important for both botanical and art collections.”  
•Library Journal.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Shirley Sherwood is a major exponent of contemporary botanical art and her collection of over 400 works has been shown all over the world. Her love of this artistic subject has prompted her to start botanical art classes, led by leading artists in the field, in order to encourage new artists around the globe. Originally done to provide a visual record of plants from as long ago as the Ancient World, it reached its heyday during the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries with artists such as Redoute, the Bauer Brothers and Ehret, creating masterpieces that were collected avidly for both their artistic merit and their scientific value. Still popular today, it is found adorning stationery items, wallpaper and textiles and is undergoing a resurgence of interest, in part due to Shirley wanting to share her passion with others. From the black and white pen and ink studies of Francesca Anderson, the almost photographic style of Raymond Booth to the botany book style of Regine Hagerdom and the perfection of Manko Imai, this collection of prints demonstrates the art of botanical drawing is very much alive today, not just here in Britain but around the globe. It has not only prospered but is

continuing to develop in new and exciting ways and this beautiful work showcases the talents that are around today. - Lucy Watson

Shirley Sherwood read botany at Oxford University and gained a D.Phil while working in the area of drug research. She is a judge on the Botanical Painting Committee of the Royal Horticultural Society, Kew, and an honorary trustee of the new American Society for Botanical Artists.

Beautiful, full color illustrations, including many full page ones suitable for framing. Nice selection.

Beautiful botanicals

An absolute treasure trove of the wonderful botanical art of many of the world's best artists. It is a great asset to my collection.

As a rank beginner in watercolor and pen and ink I much appreciate the effort it takes to produce great illustrations of natural objects. Shirley Sherwood has brought together her remarkable collection of modern botanical paintings (and some ink renderings) in "A Passion for Plants: Contemporary Botanical Masterworks" and made them accessible to the public. It is certainly an impressive effort. Unlike many styles of illustration, botanical art usually involved a finely detailed painting on a white background, occasionally with additional smaller drawings or paintings. Occasionally a background is also provided, but most have no background. The renditions of just about every artist featured are extremely well done and it is hard to pick a favorite. Kate Nessler's watercolor of Rose Hips & Oak Leaves, Mariko Imai's exquisite watercolors of carnivorous plants, Elizabeth Dowle's paintings of fruit, Francesca Anderson's detailed ink renditions of sunflowers and cacti, and John Wilkinson's ultra realistic (complete with insect damage and hover flies!) watercolor of *Ligularia*, are just a few of the treats in this magnificent book. It sure makes for a tough standard, but a worthy one, for us beginners! A great book for artists, botanists and anyone interested in plant illustration!

Shirley Sherwood, described as an "original" in the preface to this book, is an avid collector of - wait for it - contemporary botanical art. Like most people, I assumed this kind of art was (literally) baroque. Sherwood has also promoted this neglected art form through exhibitions, catalogues and books. Her publisher admits that Sherwood has been exhorting, cajoling and influencing painters all

over the world to contribute works for her books! In a sense, then, the art reproduced in this superb volume is "made in Shirley Sherwood". The author also heads courses in botanical painting at her husband's Orient-Express hotels. That's quite an accomplishment - start a genre and then publish your very own book about it. But then, why not?"A passion for plants" contain works acquired 1996-2000. A few paintings by the old "Masters" are also shown and compared to modern paintings of the same plants. People interested in "A passion for plants" might also want to buy an earlier book by the same author, "Contemporary Botanical Artists: The Shirley Sherwood Collection". I haven't had the opportunity to see it myself, though. This particular book is definitely five stars. I might consider buying it as a gift for my parents.

I would highly recommend this book. It features short biographies of highly regarded botanical artists illustrated by examples of their work. Both fruit and flower paintings are included. The paintings are beautifully observed and designed. Aspiring botanical artists would learn a lot from this book and be inspired. I will always treasure this book which I bought in hard cover.

This is an excellent collection of botanical illustrations reproduced in very detailed, rich color on quality paper. Artists from all over the world are represented with brief biographies of each one. I think this book is one of the best books to have if you love botanical illustration and would like to see examples done by highly skilled, scientifically accurate illustrators. Just as good or better than the first Shirley Sherwood collection book.

This book is very helpful, especially as a reference for anyone learning botanical illustration or anyone wanting to learn about specific botanical artists. It's beautiful art work also makes it very nice as a "coffee table" book for others to admire.

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