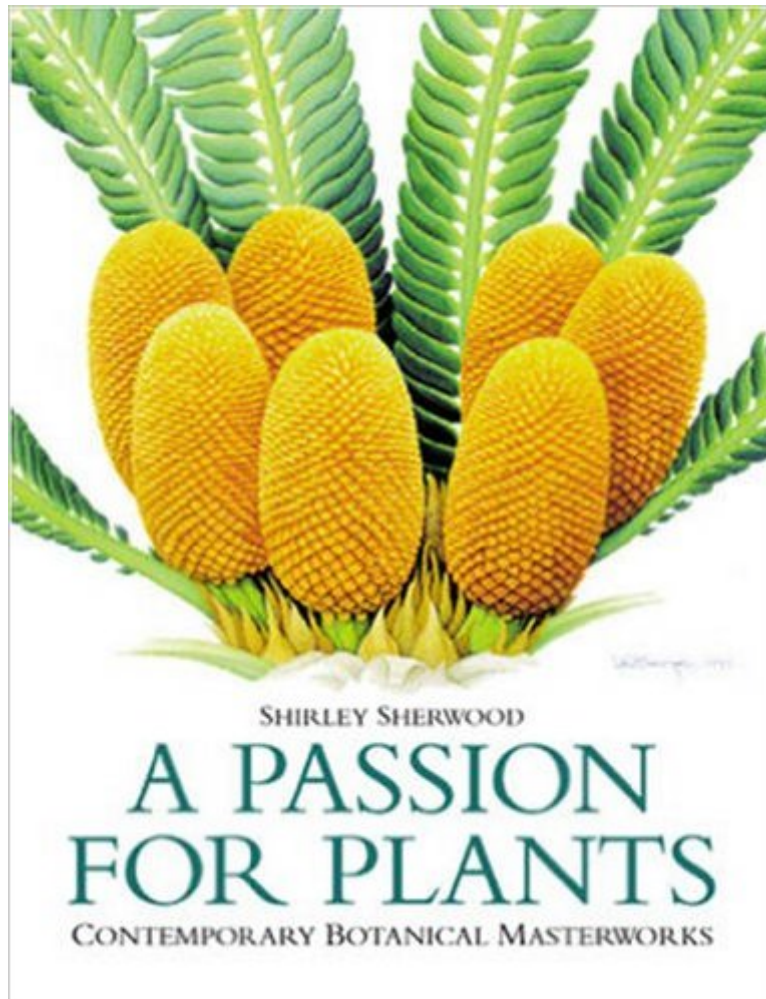


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# A Passion For Plants: Contemporary Botanical Masterworks



## 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

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!

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

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.

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