

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 12, 2023

**MASSACHUSETTS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY LAUNCHES BOTANICAL ART PROGRAM
IN TRANSFER FROM FRIENDS OF WELLESLEY COLLEGE BOTANICAL GARDENS**

WELLESLEY, MA — Massachusetts Horticultural Society (MHS) is excited to announce the transfer of Friends of Wellesley College Botanic Gardens (WCBG) Botanical Art and Illustration program. Effective September 1, 2023, the Botanical Art and Illustration program will become part of the portfolio of classes offered by MHS and will launch alongside MHS's fall classes later this summer.

James Hearsom, President and Executive Director of Massachusetts Horticultural Society, says of the launch, "We have enjoyed hosting these programs over the past few years and are delighted that they are making the Garden at Elm Bank their permanent home. Botanical art and illustration continues to play an important role in plant conservation and ecological restoration and so is a wonderful addition to our comprehensive program of practical horticultural education."

Botanical art classes first launched 20 years ago by the Friends of WCBG. Since its inception, the program was defined as "bringing together fine art and scientific accuracy in an integrated course of study set in the Wellesley College Botanic Gardens." The program has since developed a Certificate in Botanical Art and Illustration (CBA), which includes courses taught by lead instructor Sarah Roche and other local and international instructors. This nationally recognized and rigorous program is grounded in the science, tradition, techniques, and history of classical botanical art and illustration.

The program is excited by the opportunities and benefits that come with being part of a horticultural community. With the growing Garden at Elm Bank and the development of MHS's educational offerings, the Botanical Art and Illustration program offers a program at the intersection of art and science, which has long been part of MHS's mission.

For inquiries about the transfer of Botanical Art and Illustration and other MHS education programs, please contact the Education Department at education@masshort.org or 617-933-4973.

About Massachusetts Horticultural Society



Massachusetts Horticultural Society seeks to help people change their lives and communities for the better through growing plants together. MHS disseminates information on horticulture and related sciences through its Library, educational programming, exhibitions and community outreach initiatives. Through these, MHS seeks to engage guests with the importance of plants, gardens and natural landscapes in their lives and help them to become active growers and gardeners themselves. As America's first established horticultural society, MHS has been practicing horticulture 'for the public good' since 1829.

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