

# THE ART OF BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATION

16<sup>th</sup> Biennial Exhibition

Information  
for Artists



*Grevillea rosmarinifolia* by Lioudmila Volodina

# The Art of Botanical Illustration Exhibition

## 17 September – 2 October 2022

Presented by the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne

The 16th Biennial Exhibition of The Art of Botanical Illustration, (TABI) 2022, will be held as a **hybrid exhibition**, with a physical exhibition held at Domain House, Dallas Brookes Drive, Melbourne and as a virtual exhibition.

TABI is one of Australia's leading botanical illustration exhibitions. The Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne (FRBGM) believe offering the exhibition in this hybrid format will capture a wide audience and in turn provide greater exposure to the artworks of nationally and internationally based botanical artists.

**The conditions of entry for TABI 2022 are different to previous years due to the hybrid format.**

All selected artworks must be physically onsite for the exhibition at Domain House and artists must also provide high resolution digital images of their selected artworks for the virtual exhibition.

Please carefully read the following information and guidelines. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us via email: [botanicexhibitions@frbgmelb.org.au](mailto:botanicexhibitions@frbgmelb.org.au).

## Prizes

For TABI 2022 Eckersley's Art and Craft have generously donated \$2,000 worth of vouchers for art materials. These vouchers will be offered as prizes as follows:

- Vouchers to the value of \$1,000 will be awarded to the Celia Rosser medal winner (or shared in the event of more than one medal winner).
- The remaining vouchers will be shared by other winners, including recipients of an honourable mention.

If a prize winner resides overseas, art materials may be ordered online through Eckersley's (<https://www.eckersleys.com.au/>) and the FRBGM will arrange shipment of the art materials to the recipient.

# Conditions of entry

## 1. Entry forms, fee and closing date

Entries for TABI 2022 can be completed online by visiting the [Friends' website](#) where you will find the following links:

1. Registration form – to be completed by **11.59 pm 1 August 2022**, which includes:
  - a. Short artist's biography (max 200 words)
  - b. Brief description of the artwork including medium, size and title
  - c. Expression of Interest in volunteering at the Exhibition
2. Dropbox link to upload your high-resolution digital image
3. Payment for Entry Fee.

An **entry fee of \$10** will be charged for *each* artwork submitted for selection.

Note: This is a change from previous exhibitions: A hanging fee will *not* be charged for selected artworks, instead an entry fee will be charged for each artwork submitted. The entry fee will be paid with the application.

All three steps above **must** be completed to successfully complete your registration.

The deadline to complete your registration to **TABI 2022 is 11:59 pm, Monday 1 August 2022.**

## 2. FRBG membership

Exhibitors, if selected, must be financial members of the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne (FRBGM). If you are not a member, visit the [FRBGM website](#) to organise your membership.

## 3. Size / medium / number of artworks

Artworks may be in any size or medium used in botanical art including watercolour, graphite, colour pencil, pen, and ink.

Artists may submit up to **three artworks** for selection.

**Please note:** 3D artworks, computer-generated images, digital images, or photographic images are not permitted.

## 4. Botanical requirements

All artworks must be of botanical subjects (or part thereof) and must accurately represent the form and botanical characteristics of the chosen subject.

Inclusion of pollinators is acceptable if they play a minor role in the artwork.

The full botanical name and cultivar of the plant and any pollinator, if applicable, must be noted in the registration form but need not necessarily be included on the artwork itself. In naming, please observe correct binomial nomenclature.

## 5. Style

In addition to conventional botanical illustration, the selection panel will be asked to consider artworks that may go outside these traditional parameters. Cropping or enlargement (with magnification stated, e.g., x10), background colour and detail, and innovative compositions are encouraged; however, botanical accuracy and fine detail are still vital.

## 6. Authenticity and date

Each entry must be the original and sole artwork of the artist and must have been produced since TABI 2020.

## 7. Presentation of artworks for selection

**Please note:** In 2022 artworks are not required to be delivered to Domain House, Melbourne, for the selection process. The selection process will be completed using the digital images submitted during the registration process.

Your artwork images must be submitted in a high-resolution, professional format. To enable judges to evaluate the artworks it is essential for artists to provide a **high-quality digital file format** i.e., 300 dpi JPG file, with a length of 25 cm on the longest edge.

We highly recommend artwork is professionally scanned (preferred) or photographed and colour corrected to match the original artwork. It is also recommended that artists book scanners *early* as scanners often close orders quickly.

Images must be in correct viewing orientation.

File size 25 Mb maximum per artwork.

Individual files uploaded to DropBox are to be labelled: "Artist'sLastname, Artist'sFirstname – Plant scientific name"

All selected artworks will be exhibited physically at Domain House and online via the virtual exhibition. There can be no exceptions to this.

**Please note:**

- Any deviation from the above will result in disqualification of the artwork.
- To preserve copyright, images of the selected artworks will be converted into a lower resolution format before being uploaded for inclusion in the virtual, online exhibition.

## 8. Selection Process

The artworks selected for TABI 2022 must be both scientifically accurate and artistically pleasing.

Each artwork is carefully selected against strict selection criteria by a panel of three professional judges, including a botanist and an experienced artist, to ensure the highest standards are met.

All artworks will be selected from the digital image provided i.e., the selectors will review all submissions online.

**The decision of the selection panel is final.**

The TABI Organising Committee reserves the right to decline any artwork which they believe was not faithfully represented upon sighting and does not meet the selection criteria.

### **Selection criteria**

The artwork must adhere to the following selection criteria:

- It must provide an accurate representation of the form and botany of the chosen subject.
- The characteristics of the species or variety must be adequately conveyed.
- The representation should be an artistically pleasing, balanced and a considered work of art.
- It must be identified and named accurately according to standard botanical practices.
- It must have been completed since TABI 2020.

## **9. Presentation of Artworks for the TABI 2022 Exhibition**

### **A. Artworks for display at Domain House**

#### *Exhibited artworks*

Artworks to be hung at Domain House must be suitably framed and fitted with D rings for hanging. Please attach wire or hanging cord to the D rings. Do not use staples.

Artists should use their discretion in the choice of matting and framing. Frames, however, are to be of a professional quality and compliment the artwork.

**Please note:** If an artist lives regionally, interstate or overseas, the artist is responsible for arranging and paying the cost of shipping the original artwork to and from Melbourne.

If an artist is personally delivering the framed original artwork to Domain House, Melbourne, please ensure your artwork is carefully packaged, preferably in bubble wrap or other protective packaging, which is removed by the artist prior to handing in.

All artworks must be labelled. Please print and attach the label below to the top right-hand side on the back of framed (hung) artwork. We strongly encourage you to copy and paste the below template into Word and type in the relevant information rather than handwriting to ensure accuracy.

<b>Artist:</b>
<b>Title:</b>
<b>Medium:</b>
<b>Price: \$</b>
<b>Office Use - NUMBER</b>

All artworks on display at the exhibition must be for sale.

*Unframed artworks*

In addition to the three (3) original artworks submitted, artists can also submit up to **10 (ten)** unframed artworks and prints, which are also for sale for the duration of the exhibition.

**Please note:** These unframed artworks will only be available for sale at Domain House and will not be part of the virtual exhibition.

- Artists with paintings submitted, *but with none selected for inclusion in TABI 2022*, may offer those artworks which were submitted for sale as unframed, mounted artworks, neatly wrapped in clear cellophane.
- Artists who *do have paintings selected for hanging* may also include up to 10 other unframed, mounted originals or prints of their artwork.
- Prints of original artworks hanging in the exhibition will **not** be accepted.

All unframed artworks should be tightly wrapped in clear cellophane and be labelled and priced on the **front, top right**; marked as **“PRINT”** or **“ORIGINAL”** and delivered at the same time as framed artworks.

If an unframed artwork is smaller than A3, the artwork must be wrapped in cellophane with an A3 piece of mounting board to deter theft.

**Please note:** If an artist lives regionally, interstate or overseas, the artist is responsible for arranging and paying the cost of shipping of their unframed artwork to and from Melbourne.

All unframed artworks must be labelled. Please print and attach the label below to the top right-hand side on the front of the unframed artwork on top of the cellophane in which the unframed artwork is wrapped. We strongly encourage you to copy and paste the below template into Word and type in the relevant information rather than handwriting to ensure accuracy.

<b>Artist:</b>
<b>Title:</b>
<b>Medium:</b>
<b>Price: \$</b>
<b>Office Use - NUMBER</b>

### *Artists' Cards*

Cards will only be sold of artwork selected in the exhibition. Cards should be delivered in a box, clearly marked with the artist's details on the front of the box, and an image (or images) on the box lid, plus the total number of cards. All cards will sell for \$5 each including 33% commission.

**Please note:** If an artist lives regionally, interstate or overseas, the artist is responsible for arranging and paying the cost of shipping of their cards to and from Melbourne.

## **B. Display of artworks online**

All selected artworks will also be included in the online, virtual exhibition.

The TABI 2022 exhibition website includes a search and a magnification function, a gallery of artworks, information about each artist, the size and cost of the artworks, a continuous display banner of images and a shop with a secure payment gateway.

High resolution images will be used to generate cropped images of the artwork which allows for the magnification function on selected parts of the artwork. To prevent copying of images and preserve copyright, images will be converted to a lower resolution format (72dpi 1000 pixels), for website publication.

A feature of the TABI 2020 Exhibition, which was only presented virtually, was progress images and short videos of artists speaking about their artwork. All selected artists are encouraged to submit progress videos or images for the TABI 2022 online exhibition. These elements increase the engagement of potential purchasers via the virtual exhibition and is therefore beneficial to both FRBGM and the artists. Videos should be 20-60 sec maximum.

## **10. Exhibition sales**

All artworks entered for the exhibition **must be for sale**.

The FRBGM will receive a 33% commission from the sale of any artwork. Sale prices must therefore include both GST (where artist is GST registered) and the **33% commission**.

Sale of artworks will be concurrent via the physical exhibition at Domain House and the virtual exhibition presented on the online platform. Sales will be processed and noted as 'sold' on the website as they occur.

## **11. What happens when an artwork is sold?**

If an artwork is sold during the exhibition, FRBGM will advise the artist if the purchaser is able to collect the artwork at the conclusion of the exhibition.

If the purchaser is able to collect the artwork at the conclusion of the exhibition the artist will not be required to do anything further.

Sold artworks are to be picked up by the purchaser at the close of the exhibition, **Sunday 2 October between 4.15 PM- 5.30 PM**.

If the purchaser is unable to collect the artwork at the conclusion of the exhibition, the artist will be advised by the FRBGM and the artist will need to collect the artwork from Domain House, unless prior arrangements have been made with the FRBGM (i.e., you are based regionally, interstate or overseas).

If the purchaser is based regionally, interstate or overseas and is unable to collect the artwork at the conclusion of the exhibition FRBGM will package the artwork, for a fee of \$20.00 for packaging costs,

ready for postage or courier. The artist will arrange for the courier to pick up the artwork from the FRBGM office for shipment to the purchaser. The purchaser must pay the cost of packaging, freight, insurance etc., as arranged with the artist. That is, after the sale, the purchaser and artist must liaise to arrange postage, including costs, which the purchaser must pay directly to the artist. Contact details of the purchaser will be provided to the artist by the FRBGM.

**Please note:**

- The artist is responsible for arranging and paying for the cost of shipping of the original and prints and cards of their artwork to and from Melbourne. If original artwork is sold and the buyer is unable to collect the artwork from Domain House, Melbourne, at the conclusion of the exhibition, the costs of packaging, shipping and insurance of the artwork to the purchaser are to be recouped from the purchaser by the artist.
- Artworks exhibited cannot be shipped to the purchaser until after the closing of the exhibition.

## **12. Collection of unsold artworks**

If an artist is collecting their unsold artwork from Domain House, Melbourne, at the conclusion of the exhibition, artists are required to bring their own packaging for safe transport of their artwork.

If an artist is based regionally, interstate or overseas, and unable to collect their unsold artwork following the exhibition, FRBGM will package the artwork for the artist. The artist is to organise transport with their preferred courier to return the artwork.

Unsold artworks **must** be collected on either Sunday, 2 October, 5.30 to 7.00 pm *or* Monday, 3 October 9.00 am to 12.00 noon.

## **13. Media promotion, online events etc.**

The FRBGM may reproduce images of selected artworks, for marketing purposes. Marketing activities may include printed materials, digital displays and online, including the FRBGM Facebook, Instagram, the FRBGM website and eNews, or in any form of media. Artists will be acknowledged when the image of one of their artworks is used. All images used will only be for the purpose of promoting TABI 2022.

Selected artists are encouraged to also submit Videoclips, talks, demonstrations, preliminary sketches etc for use online. *Videos should be 20-60 seconds.*

## **14. Volunteering at Domain House**

The TABI 2022 Exhibition at Domain House, Melbourne, is heavily reliant on the support of volunteers to staff the exhibition.

Local artists submitting artworks in TABI are asked to consider volunteering for selected periods of time throughout the exhibition in the following capacities:

- At the Welcome Desk
- On the floor of the Gallery – to ensure security of unframed artworks, answering visitors' questions etc.
- At the Sales Desk
- As an Artist in Residence
- Conduct a tour of the Exhibition.



## 15. Disclaimer

All care will be taken, but no responsibility will be accepted for loss or damage to any artwork.

## 16. Key dates 2022

<b>1 August (Monday)</b> 11:59 pm	Deadline for entry forms and images to be submitted and payment of entry fee.
<b>2 to 12 August</b>	Preparation of artworks and related information for the selectors.
<b>15 to 19 August</b>	Selection panel deliberates, online using submitted digital images.
<b>23 August (Tuesday)</b>	Artists informed by email of results of selection process.
<b>12 September (Monday)</b> 9.00 am to 1.00 pm	Artworks, prints and cards to be delivered to Domain House for hanging.
<b>17 September to 2 October</b>	<b>TABI 2022 Exhibition at Domain House, 10.00 AM to 4.00 PM, and online.</b>
<b>2 October (Sunday)</b> 4.15 pm to 5.30 PM	Collection of <b>sold artworks by purchasers only.</b>
<b>2 October ( Sunday)</b> 5.30 pm to 7.00 PM	Collection of <b>unsold</b> artworks by artists.
<b>3 October (Monday)</b> 9.00 am to 12 noon	Collection of <b>unsold</b> artworks by artists

## Frequently asked questions

### **What if I cannot find the scientific name for the plant I want to paint?**

The exhibition aims to combine the best botanical art with a scientific focus. Artists should research their plant subjects beforehand to determine whether correct botanical names can be obtained. Selectors will not accept paintings without the correct botanical nomenclature.

### **Do I have to name the plant on the painting itself?**

No, but it is important that this information is correctly provided in the entry form, and on the label attached to the back of artwork.

### **Do I have to name any animals (such as insects) that I have included in the painting?**

Yes. All species included in the painting must be scientifically named in the title.

### **What happens if I forget to put in an entry form on time?**

Don't forget! Reminders will not be sent.

Preparing for selection is a very time-consuming task for the committee. All the data from the entry forms and the digital images must be organised and prepared for the selection panel to view. As a result, any forms not received by the due date **cannot** be accepted.

### **Is there a size or dimension limit for artworks?**

Consistent with TABI 2016 and 2018, there will be no limit on the size or dimensions of artworks for the TABI 2022 exhibition.

The number of artworks each artist can submit for selection is limited to three (3).

### **If my artwork is not selected, can I find out why?**

**No.** The selection panel includes an established artist, and a botanist, who will scrutinize each artwork for botanical accuracy and nomenclature. They choose artworks according to the selection criteria outlined in the conditions of entry. In addition, they aim to select a wide variety of subjects and attempt to include as many artists as possible.

**Their decision is final.**

### **Can I submit a pair/trio etc. set of paintings as one artwork?**

No. Artists can submit up to three artworks in total. That means three individual artworks in three separate images. A 'pair' or triptych etc. can be submitted but each individual artwork counts as one of the three and there is no guarantee that all the individual parts will be selected. The only way to guarantee a pair or triptych is kept together is to put them into the one image, this will count as a single entry.

### **How do I cost my artwork?**

In previous TABI exhibitions artists basically used a "thirds" system - for artistic work, for framing and for commission to set their price. If you are sending your artwork from a regional location, interstate or overseas, you may also wish to include the cost of delivery to Melbourne as the artist is responsible for this cost.

Include your artistic time, but do not undervalue your artwork.

**Do not** include postage, freight, courier or packaging cost to send the artwork to the purchaser if your artwork is sold as these costs will be paid directly to you by the purchaser when you negotiate with each other after the sale of your artwork. We suggest you spend some time working out a variety of packaging materials to enable safe handling of your artwork and shipping to the purchaser, so you are prepared for the negotiation with the purchaser. The postage or freight cost to deliver the artwork to the purchaser is in an additional payment to the artist on top of the purchase price of the artwork.

## For the exhibition at Domain House

### What if I can't deliver original paintings in person?

Ask a friend to deliver it for you. Alternatively, there are a number of reputable courier companies who regularly transport artwork. We suggest that artists find one that is convenient for them and within their price range. **Please ensure that the courier you use delivers the artwork on the correct day and by the required time.** It is the artist's responsibility to follow up with couriers, not that of the exhibition organizers.

If using Australia Post or a courier, please send your artwork to the following address:

Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne  
Observatory Gate Lodge  
100 Birdwood Avenue, Melbourne, 3004

If your artwork is being posted or couriered, please ensure the work is delivered before the date required as the timeline to bump in the exhibition is very tight.

### Do I need to label my artwork?

The label below must be attached to every framed and unframed artwork delivered for exhibiting. Please print and attach the label to top right-hand side on the back of framed (hung) artwork and on the front of unframed artworks. We strongly encourage you to copy and paste the below template into Word and type in the relevant information rather than handwriting to ensure accuracy.

<b>Artist:</b>
<b>Title:</b>
<b>Medium:</b>
<b>Price: \$</b>
<b>Office Use - NUMBER</b>

## **What can I submit in unframed artworks and prints? (Section 9A of the Conditions of Entry)**

In addition to the three (3) original artworks submitted in the exhibition, artists can also submit up to ten (10) unframed artworks and prints which are also sold throughout the duration of the exhibition. Artists set their own prices (including 33% commission). These can be of any other artwork **not included in the exhibition**.

- Artists with artworks submitted *but with none selected for inclusion in TABI*, can include *these same paintings only* for sale as unframed, mounted artworks tightly wrapped in clear cellophane.
- Artists who do have artworks selected for hanging may also include **up to 10** other unframed, mounted originals or prints of their artwork.
- Prints of originals hanging in the exhibition will not be accepted.

All unframed artworks should be neatly wrapped in clear cellophane and mounted in A3 size to deter theft and be labelled and priced on the **front, top right**; marked as “PRINT” or “ORIGINAL” and delivered at the same time as framed artworks.

CARDS will **only** be sold of images hung in the exhibition. Cards should be delivered in a box clearly marked with the artist’s details on the front and an image (or images) on the box lid, plus total number of cards. All cards will sell for \$5 each including 33% commission.

## **For the online exhibition**

### **How will the online exhibition work?**

Once the selectors have chosen the artworks to be exhibited, low resolution versions will be generated and exhibited online along with identifying information including title, artist name, medium, size, price and any comment that was included in the Registration Form.

Purchasers will click on an artwork to add it to a cart and purchase the artwork via the Friends online store.

Artists will be notified their artwork has sold and it will also be noted on the website.

The purchaser’s contact information will be sent to the artist, and it is the responsibility of the artist to contact the purchaser and arrange delivery. The purchaser is required to pay for any postage, insurance, or courier costs.

If the purchaser is based regionally, interstate or overseas the artist must notify the FRBGM office to negotiate the shipment of the artwork. The purchaser is required to pay for any postage, insurance or courier costs.

Sold artworks cannot be shipped until the exhibition concludes.

### **How are my images protected from online copyright infringements?**

Only low-resolution images will be placed online.

### **How do I ensure my digital scan is high enough quality?**

Digital scans need to be high resolution, so selectors have the best opportunity to evaluate the artworks. (Section 7, Presentation of artworks for selection)

Scans should be at *300 dpi JPG file and a maximum size of 25 cm or 10 inches on the longest side*. This gives an appropriate balance between being able to zoom in on the artwork and not having exceptionally large files.

File size is 25 Mb maximum per artwork. Images must be in correct viewing orientation

Individual files uploaded to DropBox are to be labelled: "Artist's Last name, Artist's First name – Plant scientific name".

Any deviation from the above will result in disqualification of the artwork.

Any reputable scanning company should be able to produce an image to this specification.

### **Payment of sold artworks**

Artists' whose artwork is selected for the exhibition will be required to provide their bank details for payment of sold items - Account name, BSB and Account No. This information will be collected via the Registration Form.

### **Australian Tax Office: Statement by Supplier**

This form must be completed by all artists submitting works for selection if you are not registered for GST. This also includes international artists. Please download the 'Statement of Supplier' form by [clicking here](#), complete the form, then scan and return via email to

[botanicexhibitions@frbgmelb.org.au](mailto:botanicexhibitions@frbgmelb.org.au)