

Dear Fellow Artists:

The good news is that winter will soon be over, yet better news is that the Spring Exhibition of The Nature Artists' Guild is just around the corner. If you have some of your latest work to exhibit, prepare it for the April show, if not, break out those pencils and paints and be energized.

Enclosed are some reminders for those wishing to participate in the exhibit:

- ❖ *Your Prospectus must be postmarked by Monday, March 7, 2009*
- ❖ *Referee night is April 15, 2009*
- ❖ *Opening night is April 17, 2009*
- ❖ *Please exhibit artwork that is five years old or less*
- ❖ *Be prepared to volunteer*
- ❖ *Be prepared to bring original items to support our fundraising at the Artisan Shop.*

The Prospectus and Registration Forms are enclosed.

Exhibition chair: Nancy Thyfault

Phone: 708-218-6422

E-mail: nancypi5@yahoo.com

Exhibition co-chair: Laverne Bohlin

Phone: 630-978-9770

The Nature Artists' Guild of the Morton Arboretum

January, 2009

Dear Nature Artists' Guild Member,

It's time to get ready for our Annual Spring Show! This year's show runs April 17 through 19, 2009.

Enclosed are:

- The Prospectus containing detailed instructions for your participation in the show
- Official Exhibition Guidelines
- Registration forms (for show art, bin art, and 3D work)
- Labels for your artwork

To participate in the show, you must do the following:

- Complete and submit the enclosed registration forms postmarked by March 7, 2009.
- Complete the labels and attach them to your art work
- Contribute to the Artisan Shop (formerly Ways & Means)
- Volunteer your time at the show. Sign up sheets will be available at Referee Night or you can call Nancy Thyfault (708-218-6422) to sign up.

Annual dues do not cover our exhibition expenses. To help cover expenses, exhibiting members are required to donate to the Artisan Shop table. You can meet this requirement in one of three ways:

- Donate nature-inspired or themed item(s) that you have created, that are **valued at \$15.00** .
No books, magazines or purchased items will be accepted.. Bring all donated items to Referee Night. Price your items in one dollar increments. Maximum selling price is \$50.00. Please call if you feel that you have an item with a higher selling price. A higher selling price can be set only at the discretion of the Exhibit Chairperson.
- Suggestions for donation would include:
Artist's note cards, small framed artwork, hand crafted jewelry, hand painted glassware or ornaments. Please try for a professional look- we are competing with the gift shop!
- If you are an exhibitor and do not contribute to Fundraising, you must pay a fee of \$15.00.

Even if you are not exhibiting this year, we are always grateful for any of your handcrafted items you would like to donate. Please contact the Exhibit Chairperson, Nancy Thyfault (708-218-6422) with questions about donations.

Even if you are not exhibiting, we can use your help. This is a wonderful way to show your support and to be a part of the show.

Please contact us if you have any questions.

Exhibition Chair, Nancy Thyfault
Phone 708-218-6422
E-mail nancypi5@yahoo.com

Exhibition Co-Chair, Laverne Bohlin
630-978-9770

The Nature Artists' Guild of the Morton Arboretum

Prospectus: 2009Spring Exhibition

Dates and deadlines:

Registration Forms Due: **Saturday, March 7.**
Drop Off/Referee Night: Wednesday, April 15, 6:00-8:00 p.m. Thornhill Education Center
Opening Reception: Friday, April 17, 5-9 p.m.
Show Continues: Saturday, April 18, Noon-5 p.m.
Sunday, April 19, Noon-5 p.m.

Pick up Artwork: Sunday, April 19, 5:15-5:45 p.m.

All artwork must be picked up on Sunday, April 19, 2009 between 5:15 pm and 5:45 pm. The Morton Arboretum will not store artwork left behind.

Location: The Morton Arboretum Thornhill Auditorium

What artwork is eligible?

- Each member may submit up to 3 pieces of framed artwork and up to 3 pieces of bin art. Diptychs, triptychs, etc., must be in one frame if you wish them to be counted as one piece.
- Work must comply with the *Nature Artists Guild Exhibition Guidelines*, attached.
- Work previously shown in a Nature Artists' Guild Exhibit may not be shown again. **Work must also have been done in the last 5 years.**
- The referees will check compliance with the guidelines on Wednesday, April 15, in the Auditorium of Thornhill, between 6:00 and 8:00 pm. The referees have the right to refuse any entry for any reason.

3D Artwork

The registration form for 3D artwork must include a photo of the work and description of proposed display requirements. Artists are responsible for providing a protective display case, if appropriate.

Digital Artwork

The required CD should be submitted to the Show Chair for review, **postmarked by April 2, 2009.**

****Please refer to the Guidelines enclosed with this Prospectus.**

Mail to: Nancy Thyfault, 8 Huntington Circle, Apt.11, Naperville, IL 60540

Other requirements

- Each piece of art must be labeled: 2-D works on the back, 3-D work where best suited. Please use the enclosed labels and complete them in full. You must include the dollar value even if the item is not for sale.
- All exhibiting members are required to volunteer time at the show. Sign up sheets will be available at Guild meetings and on Referee Night, or you may sign up by contacting Nancy Thyfault, 708-218-6422.
- Exhibiting members are expected to donate to the Artisan Shop table: either new hand-crafted items (no purchased items) or a donation of \$15. Contact Nancy Thyfault (708-218-6422) with questions. ***** Due to storage restrictions, unsold donations must be picked up by the artist on Sunday when picking up artwork following the show.**
- Artists are expected to donate 15% of any sale resulting from the show to the Guild. Make checks payable to: *Nature Artists' Guild*, indicating *Show Sale Proceeds*. Mail to: Sandy Keehn, 13045 Briargate Drive, Huntley, IL 60142.

Sale information

Due to the Arboretum's not-for-profit status, *no sale or removal of any artwork, including bin pieces will be permitted during the exhibit.* Prospective buyers may leave their name, address and phone number at the Information Table. You may arrange for sales to be completed after the show, with clients purchasing artwork from you at the Arboretum. Information Table Volunteers will be on hand to assist. Inquiries will be turned over to artists at the end of the show, but please check during the show to see if you have any inquiries. *As a matter of courtesy, please respond to all inquiries.*

How to register

1. Complete the registration form(s): There are separate forms for framed art, bin art and 3D art.
2. Mail by **March 7, 2009** the registration forms and optional Artist's Statement (6 copies) to:
Nancy Thyfault
8 Huntington Circle, Apt.11,
Naperville, IL 60540.
3. Should you be unable to participate in the exhibit following submission of your registration or need to withdraw a piece of artwork, please contact the Show Chair by **April 5.**

Note; No changes can be made in the information you submit on your registration form. The program will be formatted with the information you submit on your registration form.

Liability

Neither the Nature Artists' Guild nor The Morton Arboretum will be responsible for the loss of or damage to artwork. All reasonable care will be taken to protect the work.

GUIDELINES FOR ACCEPTANCE OF ART INTO NATURE ARTISTS' GUILD EXHIBITIONS

The requirements for exhibition with the Nature Artists' Guild are special. We have a unique natural history focus that distinguishes us from other fine art groups. At the same time, we recognize and support the need for each individual to follow her or his own artistic path. Artwork shown in Guild exhibitions is subject to special guidelines, outlined below, as well as more usual exhibition requirements, such as size of work. All work is refereed for compliance before the exhibition.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

The requirements for entry into a Guild exhibition can be divided into five categories.

1. Subject Matter
2. Scientific Criteria
3. Guidelines for Specific Categories of Art
4. Matting and Framing
5. Size Requirements

In addition, standard requirements relating to deadlines, labeling and 3D art will be included in the Exhibition Prospectus mailed to all members.

SUBJECT MATTER

Major emphasis should be on subjects in nature, such as trees, flowers, birds, insects and natural landscapes.

Please do not submit artwork that is more than 5 years old. As a guild, we all take pride in our artistic growth. We all learn from classes and interaction with other artists. We would like to exhibit artwork that is fresh and relatively current.

Man made objects, surfaces and backgrounds may be a part of the composition in an exhibited art work when the **primary intent and focus of the work is to portray botanical or nature-related material**. Examples of objects that may be included using this guideline are vases, table tops, fences or other non-natural backgrounds. *Such objects should not become the primary focus of the work nor be equal in impact to the nature element.*

Text may be included as a design element of the artwork. The text should not be the focal point or stand alone. The overall emphasis of the work should be on the "natural" subject of the piece. Text may also be included as the title, artist's signature or scientific nomenclature. If scientific nomenclature is used, it must be accurate and spelled correctly.

Work must be original, from the artist's own observations.

The final decision of acceptance of art work will be at the discretion of the exhibition referees.

SCIENTIFIC CRITERIA

- a) Nomenclature, if used, must be accurate and correctly spelled
- b) Plants and animals must be identifiable as to genus
- c) Careful attention should be paid to appropriate natural history features such as ecological associations, animal behavior, scale relationships, and color.

A *genus* is a taxonomic classification of plants and animals defined by a consensus of scientific opinion. It is simply a grouping of species with similar characteristics. All oaks, for example, make up a single genus. If you include distinctive features of the specimen you are painting, you will be depicting genus recognizably, whatever artistic style you use (see below). The Arboretum staff can help us correctly identify our plant subjects.

The third scientific criterion is where shades of gray enter into the referee's decision. He/she will first ask, "What is the

intent of the artist?” Is it to describe the plant or animal accurately or to use its form in a design, or to give an impression of its beauty or character? The referee will base his/her judgment on the artist’s focus.

GUIDELINES FOR SPECIFIC CATEGORIES OF ART

a) Scientific illustration (for example, illustrations in monographs or field guides, often black and white). In this category the scientific referee is looking for the “typical” specimen, the “average” plant, insect, or other animal. She/he does not want one of the numerous variations occurring in nature. (Remember, scientists look for such things as numbers of petals, sepals, legs.) The scientific name (genus and species) is usually used.

b) Depiction of subjects around us. You may be painting from a specimen in your yard, at the zoo, or at a vacation site - something that stimulated you. The subject might not be “typical” (a crooked elm, for example, or a leaf with interesting holes). If your intent is not strict scientific illustration, you can use the common name or a nonscientific title. Just paint carefully what you see, and the scientific referee should recognize the genus.

c) Landscapes. Because plants and animals are often distant in a landscape, the scientific referee looks more at overall form and shape than at detail. The style might range from realistic to impressionistic. In loose or impressionistic styles, the artist still needs to pay attention to the overall shape of the natural form. In a style that is mostly loose with a little tight detail, be sure the detail is rendered accurately. A typical Guild landscape might approach realism in the foreground, show basic shapes and forms in the middle ground, and soft impressionism in the background.

d) Design art. Plants, animals, and natural forms may be used stylistically in design pieces, as in a scarf, a stained glass window, or a silhouette. The referee will still need to recognize the general shape of a grape leaf or bluebird, but would accept the piece as long as he could determine the genus grouping it falls into.

e) Colorist work. Here, the intent of the artist is to use color to convey thoughts and emotions. There is some leeway to move from the accurate color of a scientific illustration - to use color to accomplish a specific artistic goal. However, the scientific referee still looks for recognizable forms in the subjects - the genera depicted.

f) Impressionistic art. Some impressionistic works, like Monet’s early water lilies, are acceptable. It is obvious to the scientist that Monet studied the shapes and habits of water lily leaves and flowers to show real lilies in their natural environment.

g) Oriental-style pieces. Painting the spirit or gesture of nature. Some oriental-style pieces are acceptable. Most traditional oriental pieces show great care in the study of nature. Details, though stylized, are recognizable natural forms.

h). Digitally painted artwork will be accepted subject to the following criteria:

- Artwork must be original.
- The manipulation of scanned photographs or other digital images is not acceptable, except for use as a background or texture. For example, a scan of textured paper for use as background texture is acceptable. Scanning a photograph of a plant and applying Photoshop filters is not acceptable.
- The artwork must be accompanied by a CD containing unflattened working files in native file format (e.g., Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, Freehand). This CD must be submitted prior to Referee Night in accordance with the Prospectus.
- If the work is for sale, it must be printed on archival paper using archival inks or dyes.

To sum up, for categories 1 and 2, carefully paint what you see. For categories 3 through 7, interpret what you see according to your own artistic vision while still remembering that genera must be recognizable.

MATTING AND FRAMING

The best presentation for exhibition should keep the focus on the artwork, the framing secondary in terms of visual order. Please use good judgment when choosing a frame, keeping in mind the overall size, weight and bulk of your framed artwork that will be hung for display during the exhibition.

Matting and framing must be clean and of professional quality, using archival materials. No saw-tooth hangers are allowed.

- Please use neutral colored mats.
- All work to be hung must have firmly attached screw eyes or D-rings and picture hanging wire. No saw-tooth hangers will be allowed. The center of the picture wire should be no less than 1” from the top of the artwork when stretched for hanging. **Please have some slack in the wire, but not too much! The wire should NOT be flat and taut, there needs to be enough slack so that when you lift the wire with your finger, it forms a slight “tent” shape.** Screw eyes or D-rings should be placed approximately one third of the way down from the top of the frame.
- Bin art work must be matted, backed and wrapped – no frames are allowed. *Professional quality matting/wrap is essential. No plastic wrap, please!*

SIZE REQUIREMENTS

Framed Work:

- Framed artwork using glass: outside dimensions, including frame may not exceed 28” x 36”. Note that the new boards will allow us to hang larger glazed pieces, which should be a benefit to pastel artists!
- Framed artwork using Plexiglas: outside dimensions including frame may not exceed 28” x 36”
- The width of frame molding may not exceed 2 ½”.
- Canvas maximum outside dimensions: 40” x 30”

Acceptance of any framed artwork that exceeds size limitations or is overly heavy with respect to the display panels will be at the discretion of the Exhibition Committee.

Bin Art:

- Size may not exceed 30” x 30” including matting

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

No mechanically reproduced prints are eligible for exhibition as framed art. Hand pulled prints and engravings are acceptable. Prints will be accepted for bin art provided that they are of commercial, archival quality and are prominently labeled as such. Prints not meeting this standard will not be accepted.

Approved January, 2009



FRAMED ART REGISTRATION FORM

PRINT CLEARLY

Please read the Prospectus carefully before filling out this form. Art is accepted for exhibition after compliance with requirements as determined by the referees on Referee Night, Wednesday, May 14, 2008. If you intend to exhibit your work in the Spring Exhibition, fill out this form in full and mail it **postmarked by March 7, 2009** to Nancy Thyfault, 8 Huntington Circle, Apt.11, Naperville, IL 60540. Be sure of your information. No changes can be made after the form is submitted.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home phone: _____ **Work phone:** _____ **Cell Phone:** _____

My signature indicates that I understand and accept the exhibition procedures, requirements and waiver of liability in the Prospectus for this exhibition:

Signature: _____

It is anticipated that all entered artwork will be exhibited. However, if we run short on room we will omit entry (C) below. Neither The Nature Artist's Guild nor the Morton Arboretum will be responsible for the loss of or damage to artwork.

Note: You must enter a value for each item, even if the item is not for sale.

(A) Title: (28 letter max.) _____

Media: _____

Value: _____ Is it for sale? _____ Frame size: _____

(B) Title: (28 letter max.) _____

Media: _____

Value: _____ Is it for sale? _____ Frame size: _____

C) Title: (28 letter max.) _____

Media: _____

Value: _____ Is it for sale? _____ Frame size: _____

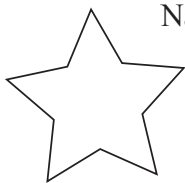
Exhibitors must volunteer during the exhibition. The sign-up sheets will be available at Guild meetings and on Referee Night.

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

Sunday, April 19, 2009. *My artwork has been returned to me. I am aware that it is my obligation and responsibility to donate to the Guild 15% of any sale resulting from this exhibition.*

Signature: _____

The Guild will keep this form on file. Thank you for contributing to the success of this exhibition.



BIN ART REGISTRATION FORM

PRINT CLEARLY

Please read the Prospectus carefully before filling out this form. Art is accepted for exhibition after compliance with requirements as determined by the referees on Referee Night, Wednesday, May 14, 2008. If you intend to exhibit your work in the Spring Exhibition, fill out this form in full and mail it **postmarked by March 7, 2009** to Nancy Thyfault, 8 Huntington Circle, Apt. 11, Naperville, IL 60540. Be sure of your information. No changes can be made after the form is submitted.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home phone: _____ **Work phone:** _____ **Cell Phone:** _____

My signature indicates that I understand and accept the exhibition procedures, requirements and waiver of liability in the Prospectus for this exhibition:

Signature: _____

It is anticipated that all entered artwork will be exhibited. However, if we run short on room we will omit entry (C) below. Neither the Nature Artist's Guild nor Morton Arboretum will be responsible for the loss of or damage to artwork.

(A) Title: (28 letter max.) _____

Media: _____

Value: _____ Is it for sale? _____ Size: _____

(B) Title: (28 letter max.) _____

Media: _____

Value: _____ Is it for sale? _____ Size: _____

(C) Title: (28 letter max.) _____

Media: _____

Value: _____ Is it for sale? _____ Size: _____

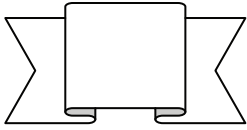
Exhibitors must volunteer during the exhibition. The sign-up sheets will be available at Guild meetings and on Referee Night.

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

Sunday, April 19, 2009. *My artwork has been returned to me. I am aware that it is my obligation and responsibility to donate to the Guild, 15% of any sale resulting from this exhibition.*

Signature: _____

The Guild will keep this form on file. Thank you for contributing to the success of this exhibition.



3D ART REGISTRATION FORM

PRINT CLEARLY

Please read the Prospectus carefully before filling out this form. Art is accepted for exhibition after compliance with requirements as determined by the referees on Referee Night, Wednesday, May 14, 2008. If you intend to exhibit your work in the Spring Exhibition, fill out this form in full and mail it **postmarked by March 7, 2009** to Nancy Thyfaultl, 8 Huntington Circle, Apt. 11, Naperville, IL 60540. Be sure of your information. No changes can be made after the form is submitted.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home phone: _____ **Work phone:** _____ **Cell Phone:** _____

Please note that the artist is responsible for providing a protective display case for breakable artwork.

My signature indicates that I understand and accept the exhibition procedures, requirements and waiver of liability in the Prospectus for this exhibition:

Signature: _____

It is anticipated that all entered artwork will be exhibited. However, if we run short on room we will omit entry (C) below. Neither the Nature Artist's Guild nor the Morton Arboretum will be responsible for the loss of or damage to artwork.

(A) Title: (28 letter max.) _____

Media: _____

Value: _____ **Is it for sale?** _____ **Size:** _____

Describe how work is to be displayed and the amount of space required: _____

Enclose a photo of the work with this form.

(B) Title: (28 letter max.) _____

Media: _____

Value: _____ **Is it for sale?** _____ **Size:** _____

Describe how work is to be displayed and the amount of space required: _____

Enclose a photo of the work with this form.

(C) Title: (28 letter max.) _____

Media: _____

Value: _____ **Is it for sale?** _____ **Size:** _____

Describe how work is to be displayed and the amount of space required: _____

Exhibitors must volunteer during the exhibition. The sign-up sheets will be available at Guild meetings and on Referee Night.

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

Sunday, April 19, 2009. *My artwork has been returned to me. I am aware that it is my obligation and responsibility to donate to the Guild, 15% of any sale resulting from this exhibition.*

Signature: _____

The Guild will keep this form on file. Thank you for contributing to the success of this exhibition.

Attach one label to each piece of Art, Please Print Clearly

Artist _____	Artist _____
Address _____ _____	Address _____ _____
Phone _____	Phone _____
Title of Work _____	Title of Work _____
Medium _____	Medium _____
() Glass or () Plexiglas Value \$	() Glass or () Plexiglas Value \$
Artist _____	Artist _____
Address _____ _____	Address _____ _____
Phone _____	Phone _____
Title of Work _____	Title of Work _____
Medium _____	Medium _____
() Glass or () Plexiglas Value \$	() Glass or () Plexiglas Value \$
Artist _____	Artist _____
Address _____ _____	Address _____ _____
Phone _____	Phone _____
Title of Work _____	Title of Work _____
Medium _____	Medium _____
() Glass or () Plexiglas Value \$	() Glass or () Plexiglas Value \$

Artist Statement Guidelines

Members showing work in the Exhibition are invited to submit an **optional** Artist's Statement, which will be kept in a binder available for viewing throughout the show. If a visitor makes an inquiry about you and your artwork, the volunteers at the information desk will be instructed to make the interested party aware that there is an Artist's Statement available. Please note—you are **not required** to submit an Artist's Statement.

Requirements:

- Maximum one page typed on 8½" by 11" paper. Must be legible.
- Statement must be submitted with your Prospectus. Only statements mailed in with prospectuses will be accepted.
- You may provide up to six copies.

Content suggestions:

An artist's statement can be an overall description of the artist's philosophy, motivation and techniques. It can address a specific artwork or series of works. It can incorporate biography. It can be all or only part of the above. But, most importantly, it offers the reader a glimpse of who the artist is and what motivates her/him — it personalizes the work.

In creating your statement, please keep in mind your audience and the professional image of the Guild.

Your statement might include some of the following (these are only suggestions):

- Name (must appear at the top of the page)
- Education
- Memberships
- Career
- Shows
- Hobbies
- General statement that expresses your philosophy.
- Specific statements about your framed pieces in the current show.
- Poetry
- Creative writing

Your statement **may not include** any references to pricing or sales; it may not include addresses, phone numbers or e-mail addresses. This is not an advertisement piece and cannot be since the Guild is a not-for-profit organization.

Examples of artist's statements can be found on the Internet. A good starting point is: <http://painting.about.com/cs/careerdevelopment/a/statementartist.htm> or do a search for "artist's statement".

The Guild reserves the right to review and request revisions to any submissions.

Mail your Artist Statement (up to 6 copies) along with your Prospectus to Nancy Thyfault, 8 Huntington Circle, Apt.11, Naperville, IL 60540

NEW Publicity Idea!!! Please use this sample as a starting point for a press release that could be sent to your local newspaper. One could do this singly, or gather a group of neighbor/Nature Artist friends and combine information. Check with your local paper to see if they want email or hard copy turned in.

SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE

Contact: (Name)

Phone:

E-Mail:

Local Artist to Exhibit Work at the Spring Exhibition of The Nature Artists' Guild of The Morton Arboretum

(Name) , of (Town) , will be exhibiting his/her original artwork **April 18 & 19, 2009** at the annual **Spring Exhibition of The Nature Artists' Guild** at The Morton Arboretum, in Lisle, Illinois.

The Exhibition showcases the original artwork of nearly fifty artists portraying plants, trees, flowers, seeds, fruits, as well as wild animals and landscapes in varied media including watercolor, colored pencil, oil, and wood cut prints.

Participating Guild members include locally, regionally and nationally recognized artists, many of them students and graduates of The Arboretum's Botanical Art and Illustration program.

Much of the artwork is for sale by the artists. An artisan shop offers original items created by Guild members.

This exhibit is in the Thornhill Building on the west side of the Arboretum. A private reception for Arboretum and Guild members and their guest will be held the evening of April 17.

The exhibit opens to the public on April 18 and 19 from noon to 5:00 p.m. on both days.

About (Artist Name):

(Artist Name) has studied with . . . or (Name) attended X University, earning a degree in . . . Her/his work focuses on.....(This paragraph should give further background information about the artist, as far as education, grants, awards, and inclusion of works in collections. And, any other important accomplishments)

About The Nature Artists' Guild

Established in 1986, The Nature Artists' Guild of The Morton Arboretum is an educational, not-for-profit affiliate of The Morton Arboretum in Lisle, Illinois. The Guild is dedicated providing opportunities for nature artists to meet, learn, explore and share all things related to the field of nature art. In addition to exhibitions, the Guild sponsors presentations by local and regional artists, field trips, "paint outs" and other activities for its members.

The Guild's members include nationally, regionally and locally recognized artists as well as new artists and those enrolled The Arboretum's Botanical Art and Illustration certificate program. Membership in The Guild is open to all who are interested in nature art.

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(Note: you can include a photograph of your work, if available)