

## INFORMATION PACK

# Association of British Botanical Artists REFLECTIONS

### Background

In November 2021 COP26 (UN Climate Change Conference) in Glasgow Scotland, will bring together the nations of the world for one of the most important international meetings for the future of our planet.

Inspired by COP26 the Association of British Botanical Artists is excited to announce that their major exhibition for 2021 will focus on the crucial role that plants play in the health of our planet.

COP26 has six major themes and the theme that is relevant to this exhibition is:

*“ Nature - to safeguard and restore natural habitats and ecosystems to preserve the planet’s biodiversity “*

The Association will bring together a digital collection of our members botanical art that will reflect the pivotal role that plants play in preserving the planets biodiversity.

A juried selection from this collection will be displayed on a large screen in the Shirley Sherwood Gallery, Kew Gardens, London. All submitted artwork will be simultaneously exhibited in the ABBA Online Gallery.

Exhibition Title

**REFLECTIONS**  
Association of British Botanical Artists

Sub Title

“no plants no planet “

### Exhibition Aim

To stimulate discussion about biodiversity and the impact of climate change using the medium of botanical art to tell a story through imagery which is visually appealing and immediately accessible to a wide audience.

## Expectations

In addition to ONE piece of original botanical art, artists will be expected to explain their artwork in a short, written piece (max 50 words), describing the significance of their chosen plant(s) or habitat.

The title of the exhibition has been chosen because we would like artists to *Reflect* on the subject and composition they have submitted that best represents the exhibition aims and to *Reflect* on the words that would describe their visual imagery.

## Important Dates - **NOTE CHANGES**

<b>Opening Date for Online Submissions</b>	SUNDAY 9TH OF MAY, 2021- NOW OPEN
<b>Closing Date for Entries</b>	WEDNESDAY 1ST OF SEPTEMBER, 2021
<b>Exhibition Opening</b>	SATURDAY 16TH OCTOBER, 2021

**Main Exhibition Page - <https://www.britishbotanicalartists.com/reflections>**

## Support

As this will be a major exhibition for 2021 and we believe a unique opportunity for our members to showcase their artwork, we expect a large number of questions particularly around the idea of the submitted work telling a visual story. We are really looking forward to some imaginative compositions.

To assist our members we will hold a further series of Question & Answer Sessions on Zoom where members of the ABBA team will be online to answer any questions or clarify points related to this important exhibition. These sessions are advertised on the Exhibition page on the ABBA website.

## The “**ReflectionS**” Exhibition - Shirley Sherwood Galley

We will take a juried selection of artwork from the **ReflectionS** Exhibition to display as digital images on a large screen in the gallery.

Artwork to be displayed in the Shirley Sherwood Gallery will be juried and selected based on:

- the image telling a visual story that meets the aim of the exhibition
- the image translates to a large screen for display and is visually exciting or appealing
- the image is scientifically accurate

All submitted artwork will be simultaneously shown in the ABBA online gallery and will be available to an international audience.

## Criteria

The specific criteria for the exhibition are outlined below and should define your finished artwork. Although these criteria may depart from other ABBA exhibition requirements we believe the importance of the COP26 Conference merits that submitted artwork should attempt to reflect the critical role plants play in the health of our planet. No plants - No planet.

	Specific Criterion	Notes
1	You must be a Member of ABBA	To submit you must be a Member.
2	Your composition must primarily focus on plant(s) native to the area where you are based.	Plants that have developed naturally in a region having arrived without direct or indirect human action. It will be the artists responsibility to ensure that this criterion is met.
3	Your artwork meets the definition of botanical art/ illustration BUT can include fungi, lichens and algae*	If you are unsure of your idea for your composition please attend one of the Q&A sessions or send us an email.
4	It will include the scientific name(s) for the subjects of the artwork	
5	Your artwork/composition should tell a story related to the habitat in which the plant(s) are found.	For example its association with other subjects that could include fungi, lichens or algae.  Or, as a threatened species, important for insects or as significant contributor to local biodiversity  If you are unsure of your idea for your composition please attend one of the Q&A sessions or send us an email.
6	Submissions must be accompanied by a short description of the visual story of your artwork.	Maximum of fifty words added to the online submission form which will be published in May 2021.
7	One entry per artist	We guarantee that your artwork will be displayed on the ABBA online gallery unless it does not meet a majority of the criteria.
8	The medium can be: watercolour, coloured pencil, graphite, acrylic, digital art, photographic, pen & ink, acrylic ink, 3D or a combination of these	If you are uncertain of the medium you would like to use then contact ABBA as soon as possible for clarification.
9	Artwork should be professionally scanned or photographed where possible to ensure the best quality reproduction of the original.	It is strongly recommended that your digital image reflects the most accurate representation of your artwork.  Artists may be asked to resubmit their work if their image does not meet this criterion.

\* Botanical art (in the broadest sense) = the representational art of plants

( 'representational' meaning relating to or denoting art, which aims to depict an accurate physical appearance of things )

## Your Digital Image

As your digital image could be exhibited on a digital screen at the Shirely Sherwood Gallery we have provided you with some guidelines below. We would really like your image to reflect as closely as possible your original artwork. We reserve the right to contact you if your digital image needs to be enhanced or resubmitted.

## The Image

A scanned image is preferred but a high quality photograph would be acceptable.

## Image Format (.tiff or .png or .jpeg)

If your image is scanned then the preferred file format is **.tiff** since this allows us to edit the file (if required) to optimise the image. A high quality (100%) **.jpeg** file is your next best option. A **.png** file is also acceptable.

## Resolution

The minimum scanned resolution is 150 dpi (dots or pixels/inch). We are also thinking about producing a hard or printed copy of the exhibition so if you are having your work professionally scanned or you have a reasonable quality scanner yourself, then use 300dpi. If photographed then use the maximum resolution from the camera (sometimes for a **.jpg**, it is shown as maximum size or 100%).

## White Balance

Submitting a file where the colours closely match the original is essential. If you have a white area in your artwork make sure the same area in your digital file comes as close to the original as possible. This is especially true if you photograph your image. In this case white areas showing as shades of grey indicate the white balance needs adjusting. Photograph your artwork in daylight but in the shade.

## Colour Rendition

If you have optimised your white balance then check to see if the colours in your digital image match or are close to the original. This is especially true for the greens and yellows. If you have the ability and the software, then adjust the colours in the image accordingly. We may contact you if we need to work with you to ensure correct colour rendition.

## File Size

The maximum file size we accept online is 25MB. File size is a balance between the resolution and the physical size of your image (height by width). For a fixed resolution (say 150 dpi) a bigger image will result in a bigger printed file size so getting the balance right can be tricky. Please contact us as early as possible if you are having problems with meeting the 25MB file size and we will give you some options to upload your file.

## Further Information

For more information about producing a good quality digital image from your artwork we have produced a more comprehensive guide that can be downloaded. Any questions please contact [britbotart@gmail.com](mailto:britbotart@gmail.com) as soon as possible or goto our main exhibition page.