

**Florentia International Exhibition of Botanical Art**, Villa Bardini, Florence,  
September 29 - October 7, 2018.

On the occasion of the traditional "Autumn and Plant Market Exhibition",  
the Tuscan Horticultural Society is pleased to present from September 29 to October 7, 2018,  
the **Florentia International Exhibition of Botanical Art**.

The exhibition will be on view in the splendid settings of the seventeenth-century Villa  
Bardini, managed by the Bardini Peyron Monumental Parks Foundation promoted by the  
Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Firenze.

Florentia is the first international exhibition of contemporary botanical art in Florence. It will  
showcase approximately 80 original botanical watercolours by well known botanical artists  
coming from Italy and 11 different countries (Australia, Austria, Canada, France, Germany,  
Japan, South Korea, The Netherlands, Russia, United Kingdom, United States).

The exhibition celebrates the Art of portraying plants, not only for aesthetic and decorative  
reasons, but above all for scientific purposes, with the rigour that the study of botany requires  
and the aim of promoting the plant world for its beauty of shapes and colors.

Florentia is intended as an opportunity to foster collaboration and sharing between  
participating artists, raise awareness of this artistic genre and demonstrate the contemporary  
botanical art renewed vitality, especially in Florence, in the wake of an ancient and  
prestigious tradition. In the Medicean Florence, thanks to the interest of the Grand Dukes both  
for botany and art, great artists such as Jacopo Ligozzi and Giovanna Garzoni, were called to  
represent, in beautiful watercolor and gouache, the best of the floral and fruit crops and the  
most precious medicinal plants.

The Florentia exhibition is co-organized by two Tuscan botanical artists: Simonetta  
Occhipinti, who lives and works in Florence, and Giuliana Gallo, who is born in the island of  
Elba but lives in The Netherlands. They met in London during the Botanical Art Show  
organized annually by the Royal Horticultural Society, and dreamed of bringing an exhibition  
of botanical paintings from all over the world also in Florence. Their dream became reality  
thanks to the invaluable support of the President of the Tuscan Horticultural Society,  
Prof. Alberto Giuntoli, who will open the exhibition together with Stefano Casciu, Director of  
the Polo Museale della Toscana; Chiara Nepi, Head of the Botany section of the Natural  
History Museum of the University of Florence and Stefano Mancuso, Director of the  
International Laboratory of Plant Neurobiology.

During Florentia there will also be the opportunity, with tours provided by the Tuscan  
Horticultural Society for the artists and their guests, to visit some of the historic gardens and  
residences built by the Medici family in the countryside outside Florence, which are all a  
Unesco site.

The exhibition will be accompanied by the publication of a catalogue.

Opening hours: 10.00am - 7.00pm, Tuesday to Sunday. Free entry on the first Sunday of the  
month.

The entrance to Villa Bardini is located in Costa San Giorgio 2, Florence. You can also access  
the Villa from Via dei Bardi 1 red passing through the scenic garden with a splendid view of  
the Duomo and the city of Florence.