

Mastery of Flora; Taken to New Heights.

To sum up in one word: Mastery.

It is really quite amazing to see so many highly skilled artists in a single space. The high majority of work is framed with protectant glass and all of the work is shown in a professional manner. The modesty of the artists is truly astounding, evident by the pricing of the work, some of which may in fact be less expensive than the frame in which the pieces are mounted. It is most certainly an exhibition worth seeing and one I highly recommend to anyone interested in flora of any kind.

One needs no artistic talent or knowledge to appreciate the beauty and precision of the pieces. The connection between the mediums is the intensely sharp detail in the use of line, whether be by brush, pen or carving tool. Impressively, the different techniques of the artists' balance well within the space. Each work is highly detailed and was clearly time consuming for the maker.

I believe the best words to describe the mastery and experience involved in the works came from one of the artists' themselves, the guest speaker, well known botanic artist, Sharon Field, who spoke these words at the opening of the exhibition:

“Beauty in a work of art is the coming together of a number of qualities - initially it is expertise in and mastery of those technical skills – these are the fundamental building blocks. Then the “x” factor must come into play – it is partly the artist’s spirit, a passion, truth, and a search for meaning that goes beyond just painting a picture.”¹

It is clear that the “x” factor was very successfully executed by the artwork in this exhibition and I look forward to seeing many more exhibitions from the Friends Botanic Art Groups. It was truly an extra-ordinary experience and a privilege to witness.

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¹ Sharon Field, exhibition opening speech, Botanical Gardens Visitor’s Centre 22/3/2014. For more information on Sharon Field can be found on her website: www.sharonfield.com.au.