# **FLORA JAPONICA** Japanese Botanical Artists

17 September 2016 – 5 March 2017

This exhibition celebrates the unique richness of Japanese native flora and the huge influence of Japanese plants on horticulture in the west. About 80 Japanese wild plants are portrayed here by 34 of the most eminent contemporary Japanese botanical artists. The flora of Japan is very rich and ancient. It includes many unique endemic species not found on the Asiatic mainland. The mountainous nature of much of the country has enabled most of these species to survive population growth and expanding cultivation. The Japanese also have a long history of plant appreciation, often collecting numerous variations of one species and preserving them for generations. From the time that Europeans reached Japan, the country was almost entirely closed to foreigners, so anything coming out of Japan to the west was considered highly valuable and exotic. Japanese wild and garden plants only reached Europe in the 19th century, later than many plants from the eastern seaboard of China. They formed part of a great vogue for all things Japanese in 19th century Europe.

#### Gallery 1 & 5 – Japanese contemporary artists

The botanical paintings on display show wild Japanese plants in perfect detail. Most of the models have been collected from wild sources and have been carefully recorded. They have been painted by the most accomplished botanical artists working in Japan today. The elegance and sense of design combined with scientific rigour is typical of Japanese botanical art. Many of the artists were trained in design, before joining groups of botanical artists or working with teachers who specialise in botanical illustration. Botanical art is expanding in 21st century Japan, with both professional artists and also a large number of amateurs producing excellent botanical illustrations. They have organized themselves into regional circles and established a nationwide association. In recent years Japanese botanical artists have been regular exhibitors at International shows, such as the Hunt Institute in Pittsburgh, and the Royal Horticultural Society's shows in London. The high quality of the paintings submitted continues to be acknowledged and they have received the highest accolades for their work.









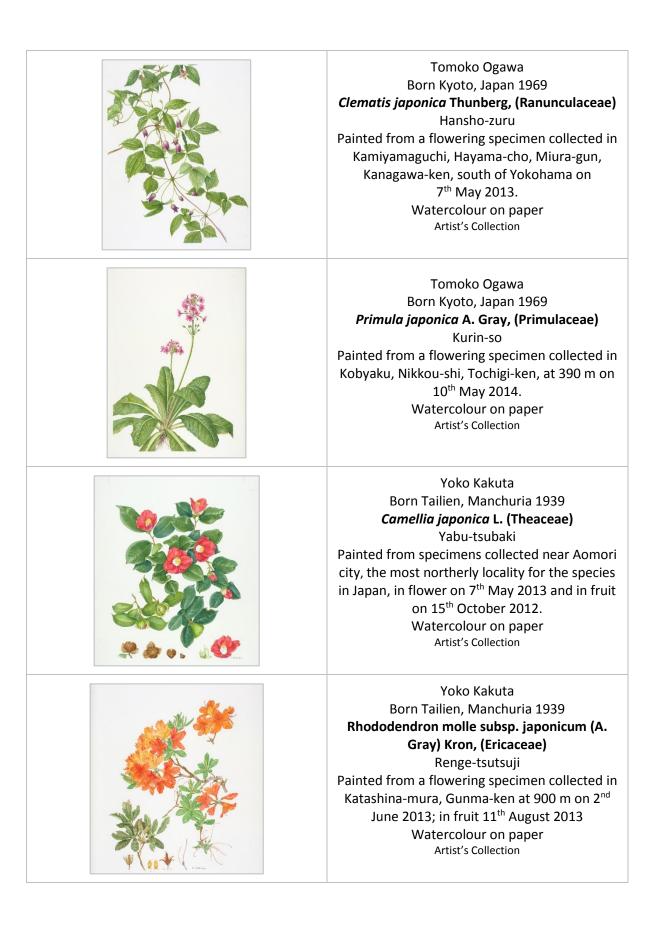
Junko Iwata Born Nagoya, Japan 1964 **Styrax japonicas Sieb. & Zucc. (Styraceae)** Ego-no-ki Painted from a specimen collected in the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew in August 2013. Watercolour on paper Artist's Collection

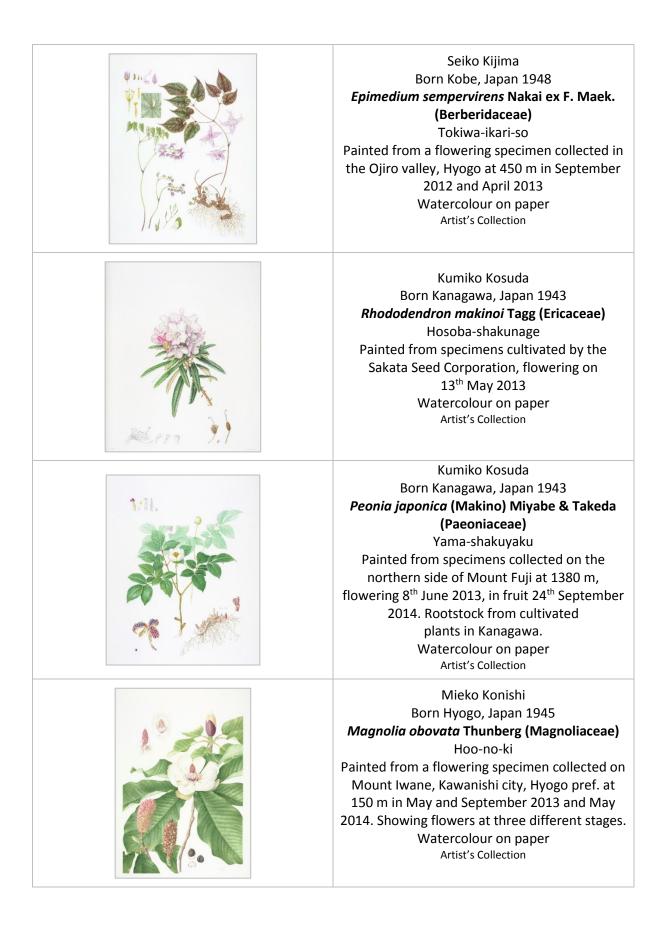
Yoko Uchijo Born Tokyo, Japan 1949 **Euonymus oxyphyllus Miq. (Celastraceae)** Tsuribana Painted from a specimen collected at Sawauchimura, Iwate province, at 380 m on 15 April 2014. Watercolour on paper Artist's Collection

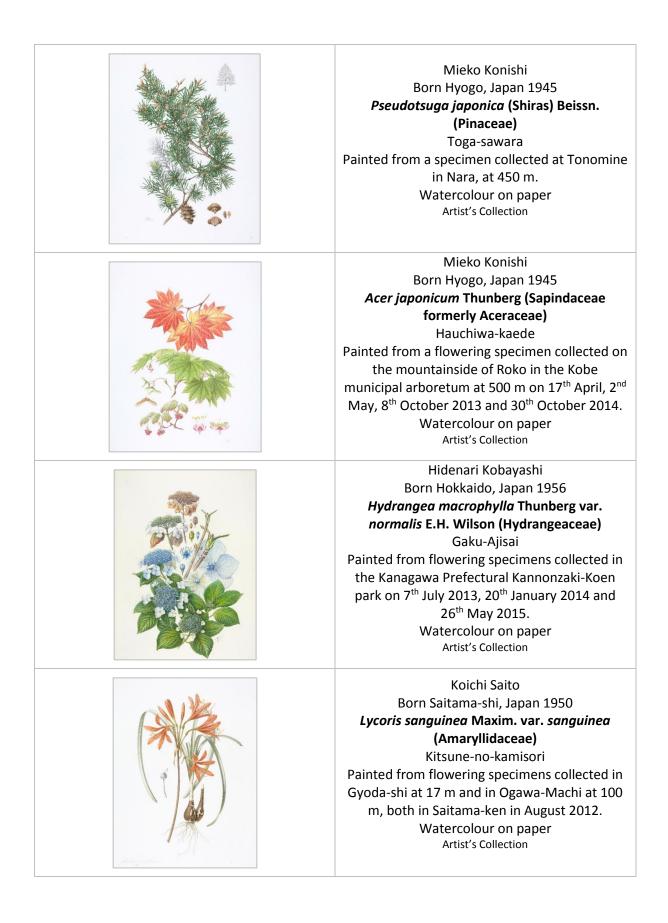
Yoko Uchijo Born Tokyo, Japan 1949 **Trichosanthes kirilowii Maxim. var. japonica (Miq.) Kitamura (Cucurbitaceae)** Ki-karasu-uri Painted from a flowering specimen collected in Tama city, near Tokyo, on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2014. Watercolour on paper Artist's Collection

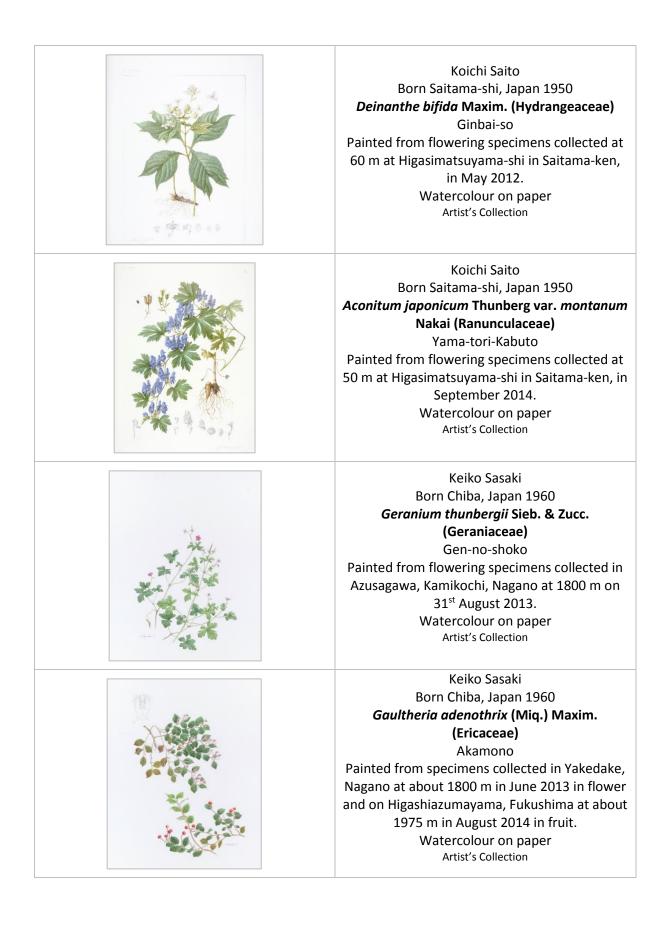
Kyoko Ohara Born Ishikawa, Japan 1972 Acer palmatum Thunberg, (Sapindaceae, formerly Aceraceae) Iroha momiji Painted from a specimen collected at Ibaraki

Nature Museum, on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2014. Watercolour on paper Artist's Collection

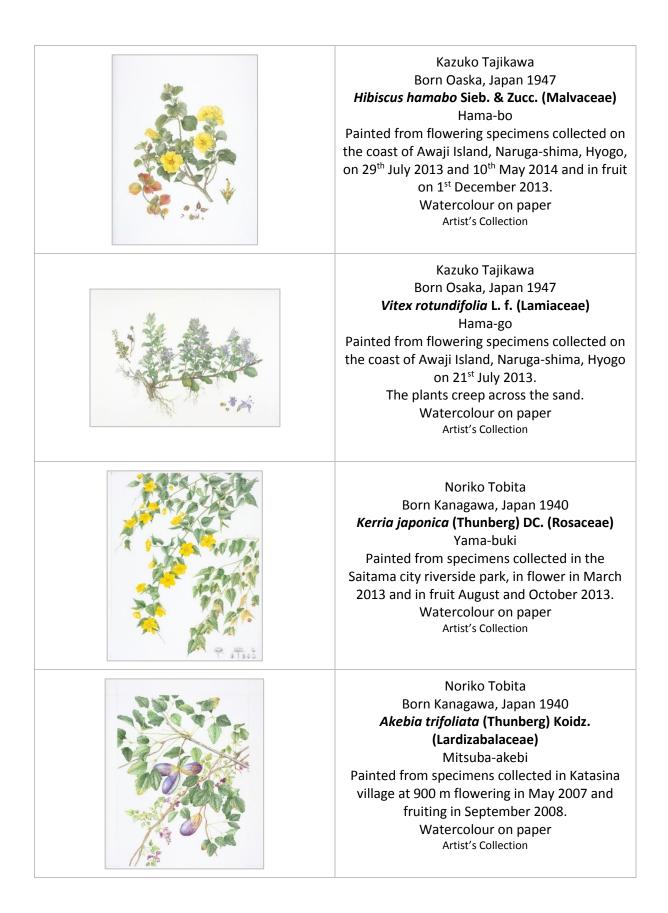


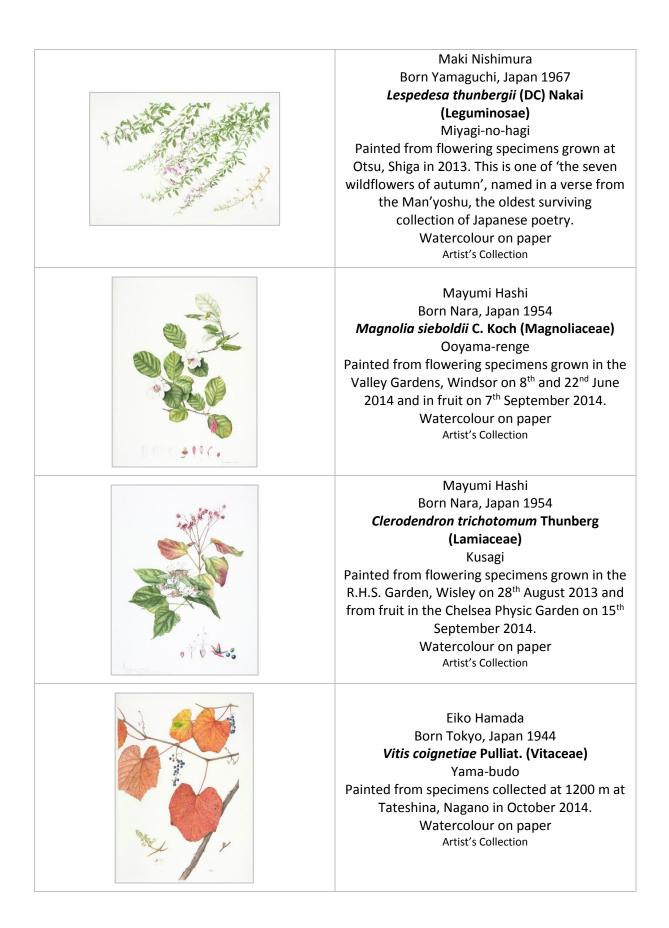


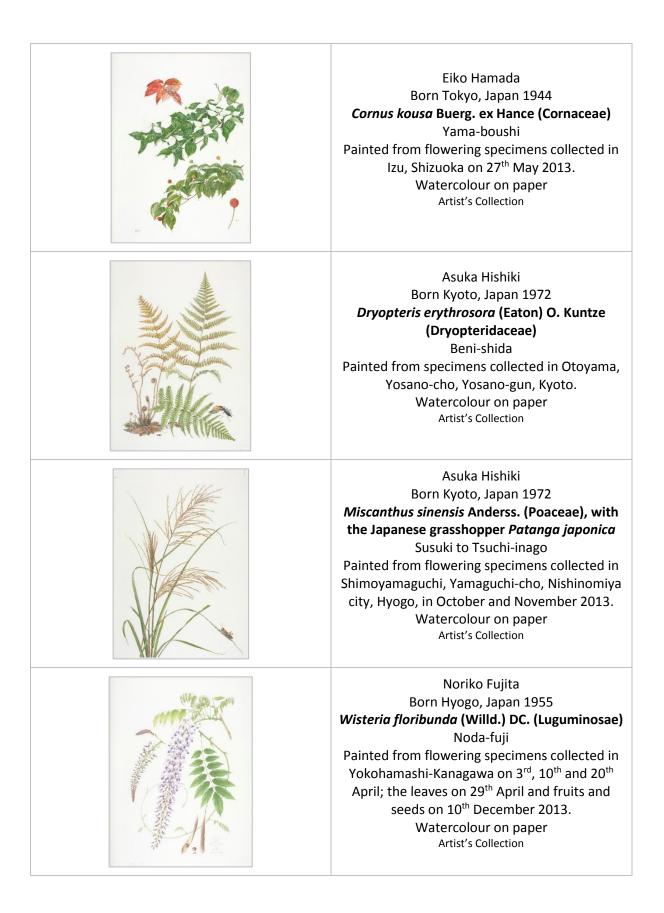


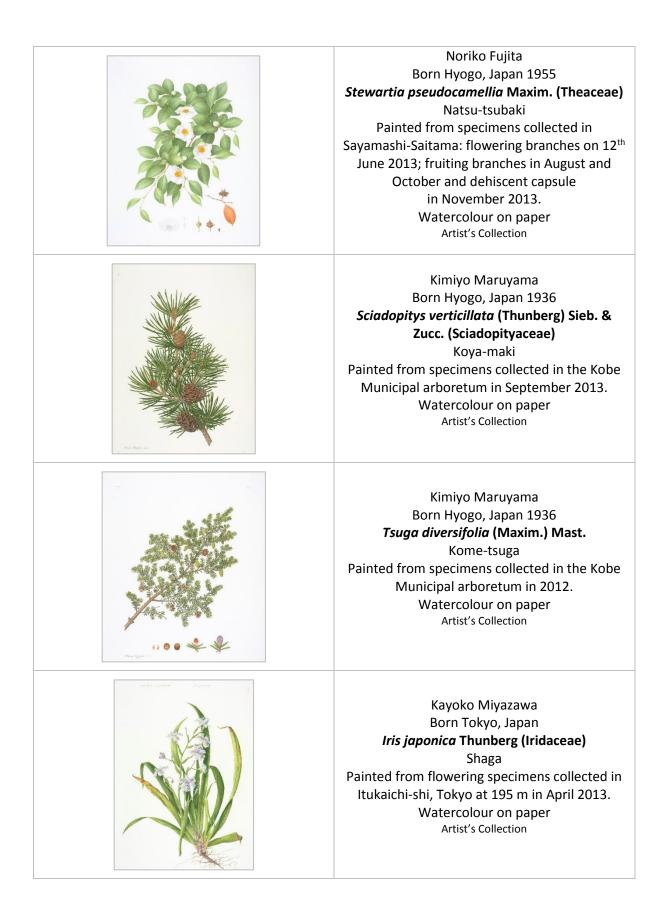


| Masako Sasaki<br>Born Hyogo, Japan 1939<br><i>Viola shikokiana</i> Makino<br>Shikoku-sumire<br>Painted from flowering specimens collected on<br>the Donbeitoge Pass in Hakone at 1400 m on<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2013 and at Nishiusuzuka at the foot of<br>Mt Fuji at 1200 m on 17 <sup>th</sup> May 2015.<br>Watercolour on paper<br>Artist's Collection     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Michiko Shibata<br>Born Tokyo, Japan 1966<br><b>Arisaema serratum (Thunberg) Schott</b><br><b>(Araceae)</b><br>Kanto-mamushi-gusa<br>Painted from a flowering specimen collected at<br>1000 m near Lake Yamanaka on 11 <sup>th</sup> May 2013.<br>Watercolour on paper<br>Artist's Collection                                                                   |
| Michiko Shibata<br>Born Tokyo, Japan 1966<br><b>Cirsium purpuratum (Maxim.) Matsum.</b><br><b>(Compositae)</b><br>Fuji-azami<br>Painted from a flowering specimen collected at<br>1000 m near Lake Yamanaka on 8 <sup>th</sup> September<br>2013. This species is almost confined to the<br>environs on Mt Fuji.<br>Watercolour on paper<br>Artist's Collection |
| Michiko Shibata<br>Born Tokyo, Japan 1966<br><b>Rosa hirtula (Regel) Nakai (Rosaceae)</b><br>Sansho-bara<br>Painted from flowering specimens collected at<br>1000 m near Lake Yamanaka on 8 <sup>th</sup> June 2014.<br>Watercolour on paper<br>Artist's Collection                                                                                             |

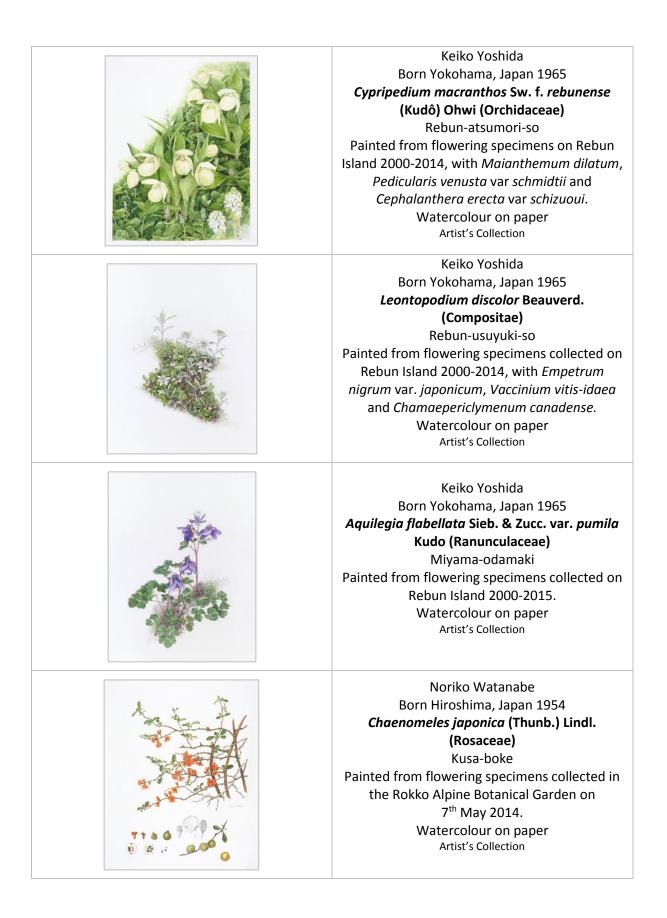


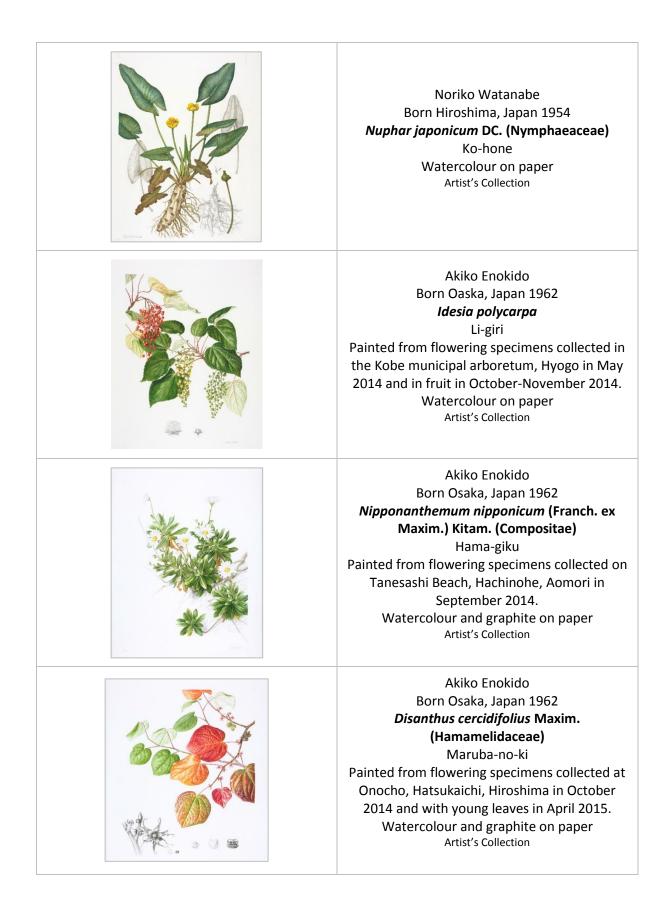


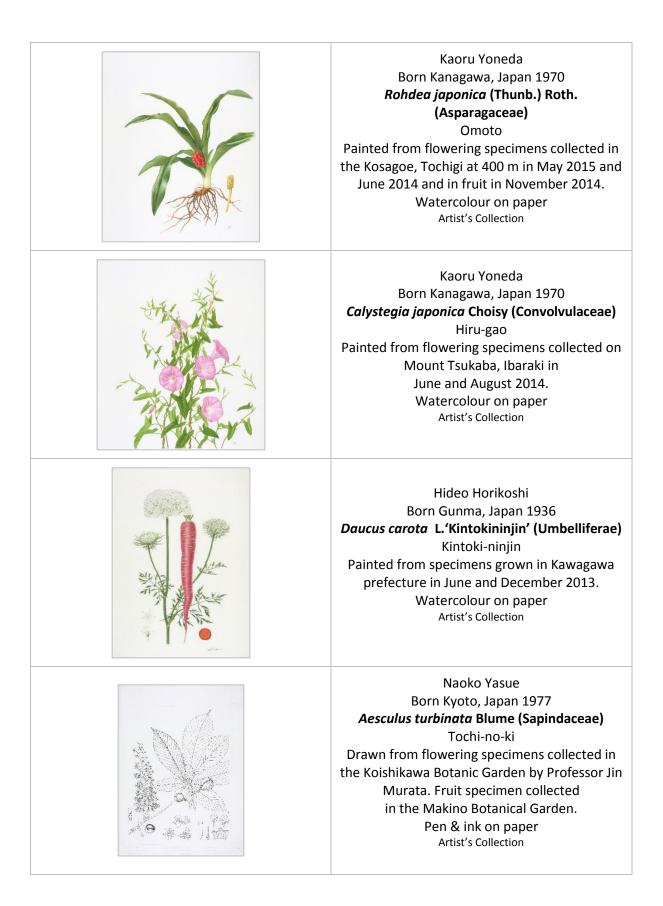






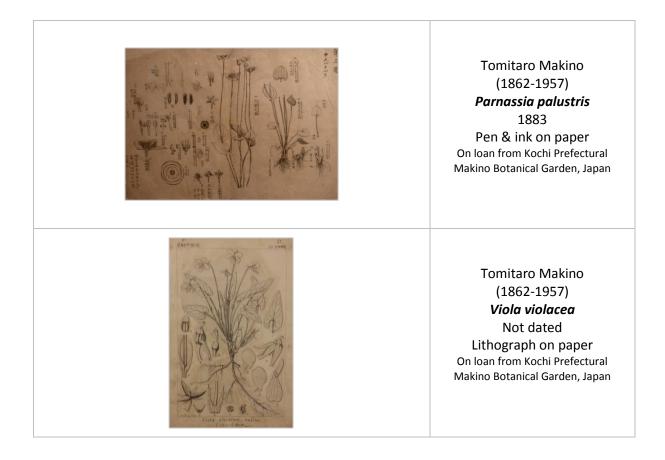


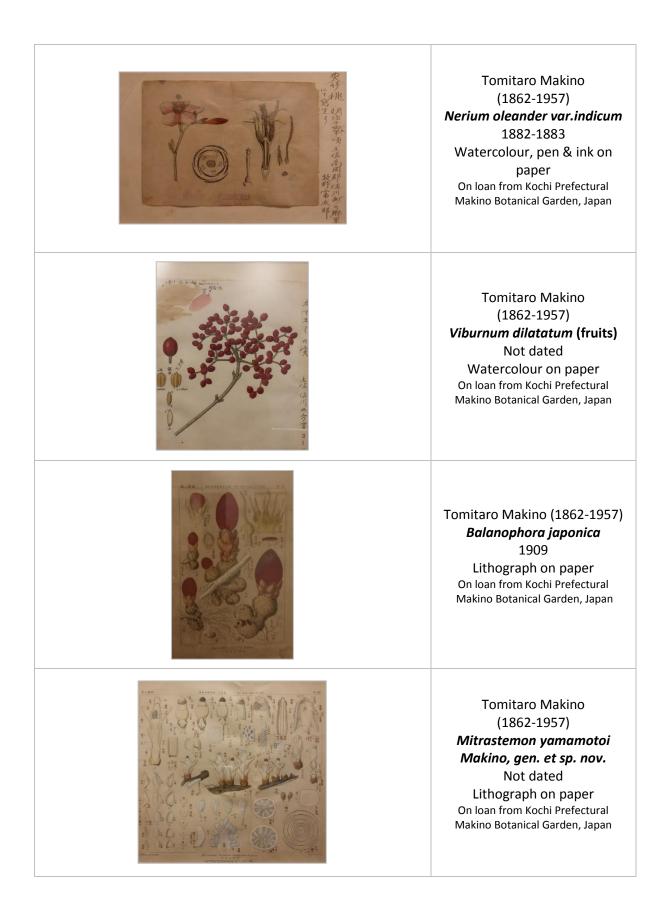


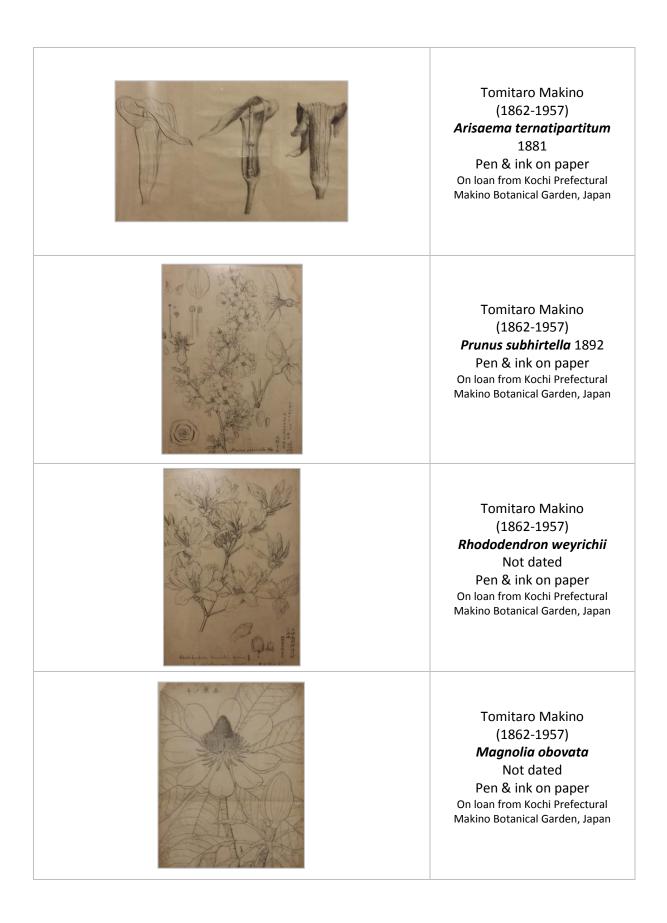


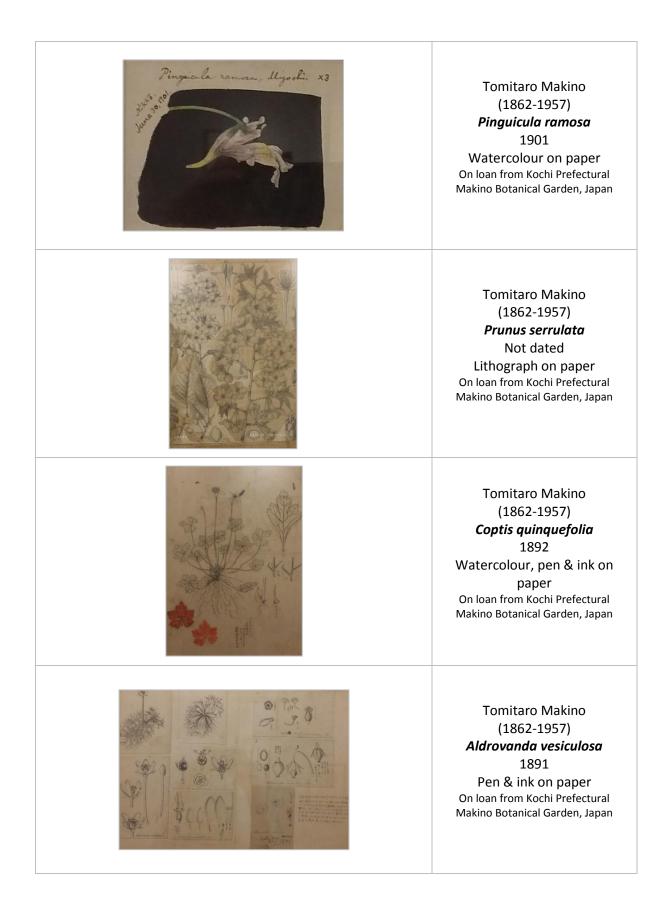
#### Gallery 2 – Dr Tomitaro Makino

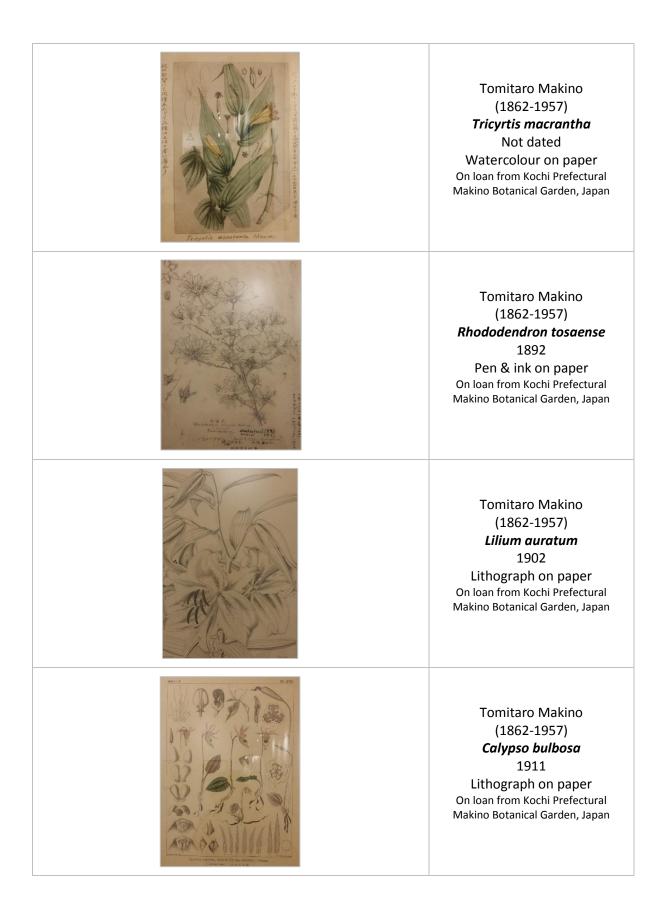
Philipp von Siebold's chief artist was Keiga Kawahara (1786–1860) who was already an experienced illustrator. Under Siebold's guidance he produced beautifully artistic and accurate portraits of plants. Keiga's illustrations formed the basis of Siebold and Zuccarini's Flora Japonica, published in Leiden between 1835 and 1870. Keiga's work established the European style of scientific botanical illustration in Japan. Chikusai Kato, working in the 1870s was the first botanical artist to be employed at the botanical garden of the newly created Tokyo University. Kato worked under the direction of Keisuke Ito (1803-1901) who had learned western botany from Siebold. In 1830 he published the first list of plant names in Japanese and Latin using Thunberg's Flora Japonica (1784). The development of scientific systematic botany in Japan is closely connected with the University of Tokyo and the Koishikawa Botanical Garden. Like many European botanical gardens it started as a medicinal herb garden and was attached to the university in 1877. An outstanding botanist working there was Dr Tomitaro Makino (1862–1957). His influence can be seen today at the Makino Botanic Garden and also the Makino Memorial Museum. He is best known for his illustrations showing different parts of the plant at different seasons. He would draw each part separately and then combine them in a single illustration. His major publication was Illustrations of the Flora of Japan, which included many of his composite plates.







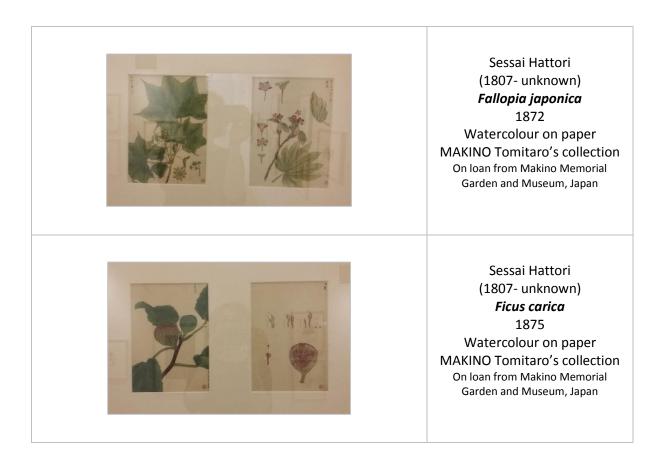






Tomitaro Makino (1862-1957) *Aldrovanda vesiculosa* 1891 Lithograph on paper On Ioan from Kochi Prefectural Makino Botanical Garden, Japan

## Gallery 3 – Sessai Hattori and Chikusai Kato





Sessai Hattori (1807- unknown) *Castanopsis sieboldii* 1872 Watercolour on paper MAKINO Tomitaro's collection On loan from Makino Memorial Garden and Museum, Japan

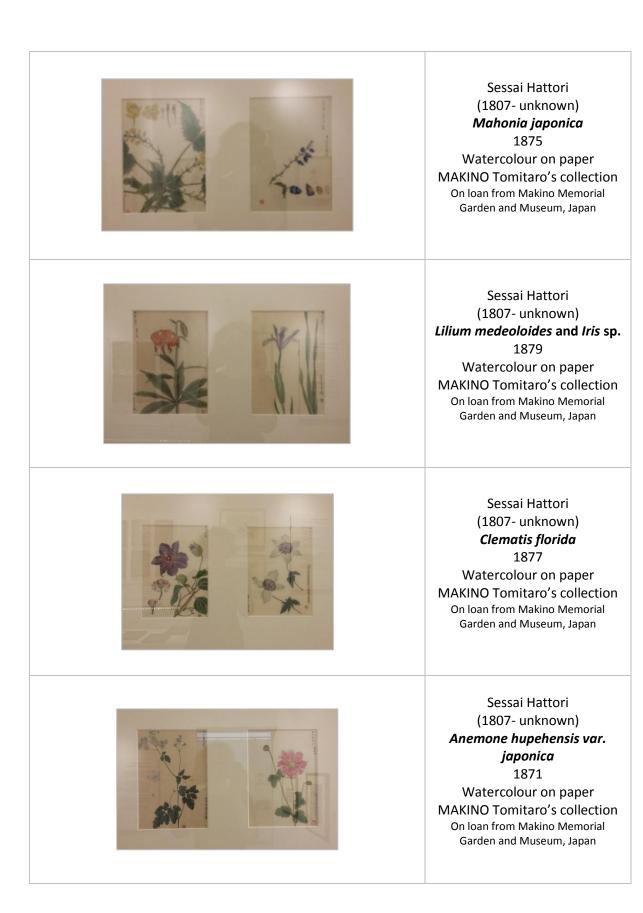


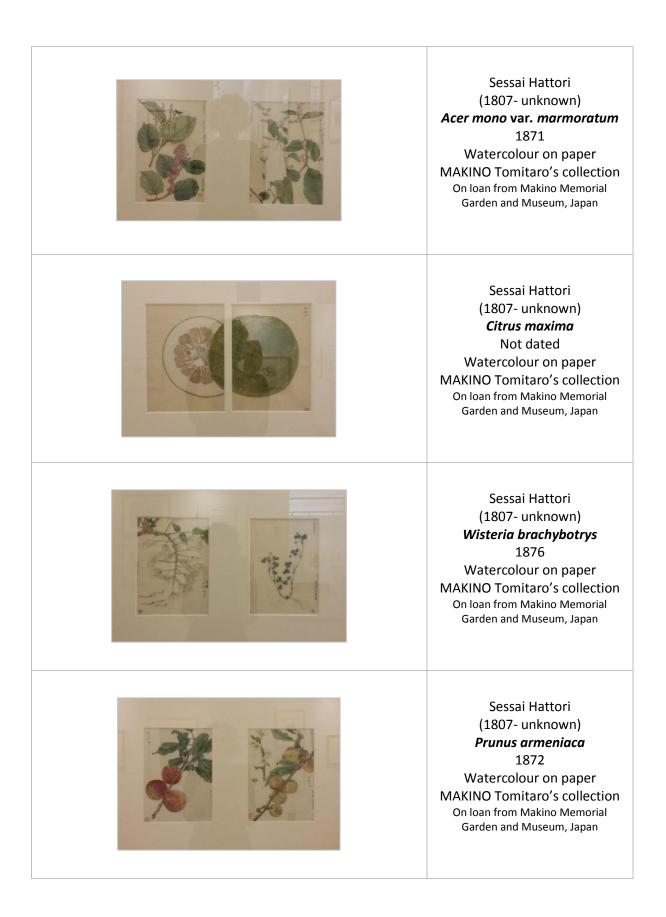


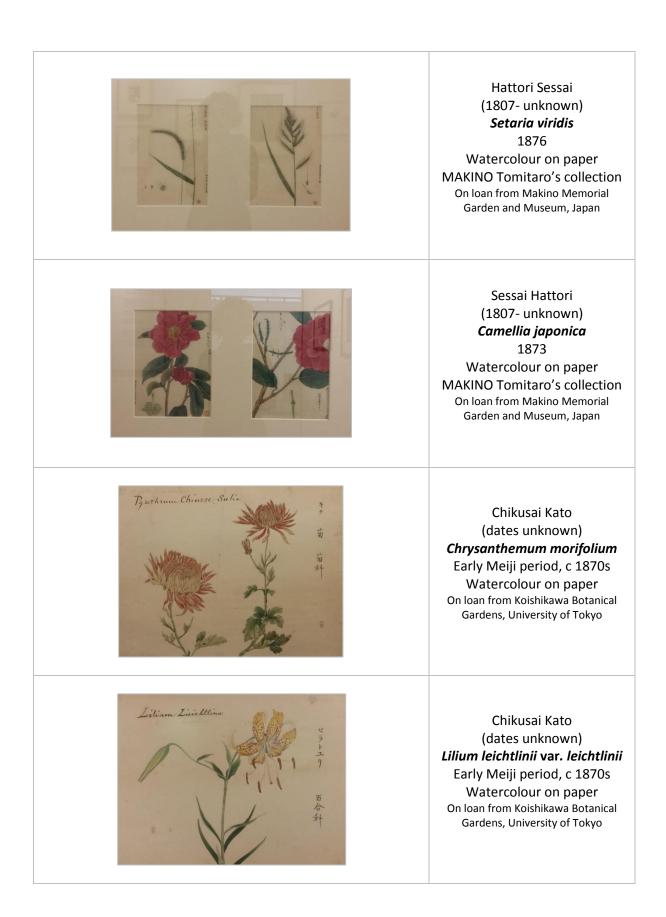
Sessai Hattori (1807- unknown) **Taraxacum sp. and Orobanchaceae** 1874 Watercolour on paper MAKINO Tomitaro's collection On loan from Makino Memorial Garden and Museum, Japan

Sessai Hattori (1807- unknown) *Menyanthes trifoliata* 1873 Watercolour on paper MAKINO Tomitaro's collection On loan from Makino Memorial Garden and Museum, Japan

Sessai Hattori (1807- unknown) Aeginetia indica and Rhododendron keiskei var. keiskei 1875 Watercolour on paper MAKINO Tomitaro's collection On loan from Makino Memorial Garden and Museum, Japan









Chikusai Kato (dates unknown) *Piper kadsura* Early Meiji period, c 1870s Watercolour on paper On Ioan from Koishikawa Botanical Gardens, University of Tokyo



Chikusai Kato (dates unknown) **Rhododendron makinoi** Early Meiji period, c 1870s Watercolour on paper On Ioan from Koishikawa Botanical Gardens, University of Tokyo



Chikusai Kato (dates unknown) *Ginkgo Biloba. L.* Early Meiji period, c 1870s Watercolour on paper On Ioan from Koishikawa Botanical Gardens, University of Tokyo

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Chikusai Kato (dates unknown) *Prunus lannesiana* Early Meiji period, c 1870s Watercolour on paper On Ioan from Koishikawa Botanical Gardens, University of Tokyo



Chikusai Kato (dates unknown) **Typhonium divaricatum** Early Meiji period, c 1870s Watercolour on paper On Ioan from Koishikawa Botanical Gardens, University of Tokyo



Bankinia Japonica. Masain H H H Chikusai Kato (dates unknown) *Wisteria floribunda* Early Meiji period, c 1870s Watercolour on paper On Ioan from Koishikawa Botanical Gardens, University of Tokyo

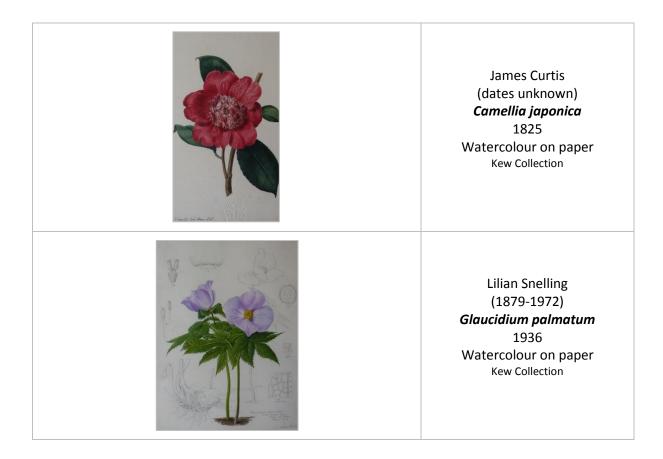
Chikusai Kato (dates unknown) *Aesculus turbinata* Early Meiji period, c 1870s Watercolour on paper On Ioan from Koishikawa Botanical Gardens, University of Tokyo

Chikusai Kato (dates unknown) **Bauhinia japonica** Early Meiji period, c 1870s Watercolour on paper On Ioan from Koishikawa Botanical Gardens, University of Tokyo



Chikusai Kato (dates unknown) **Begonia grandis** Early Meiji period, c 1870s Watercolour on paper On Ioan from Koishikawa Botanical Gardens, University of Tokyo

## Gallery 4 – Japanese art in Kew's Collections





Lilian Snelling (1879-1972) *Prunus campanulata* 1939 Watercolour on paper Kew Collection



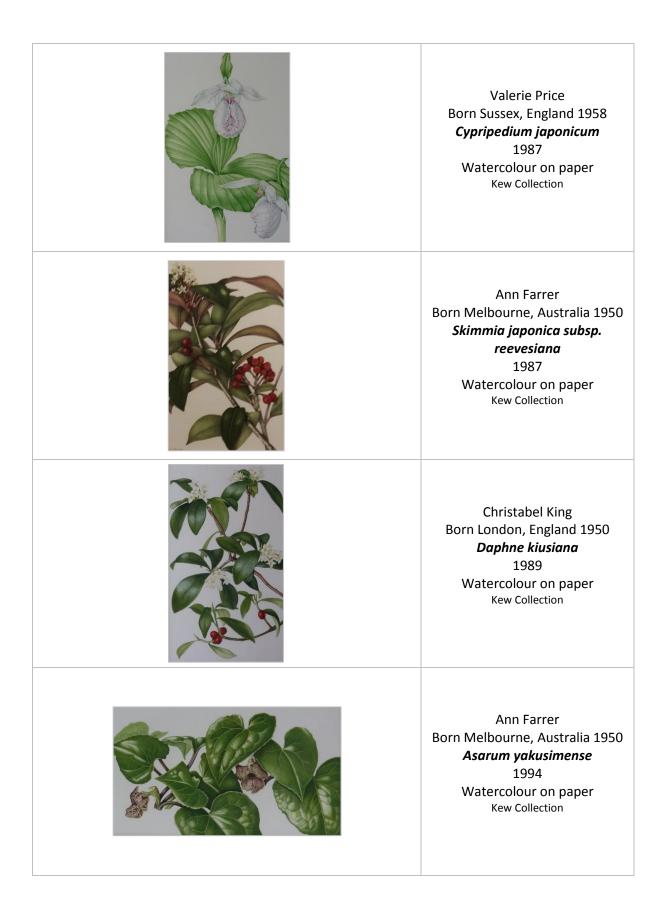
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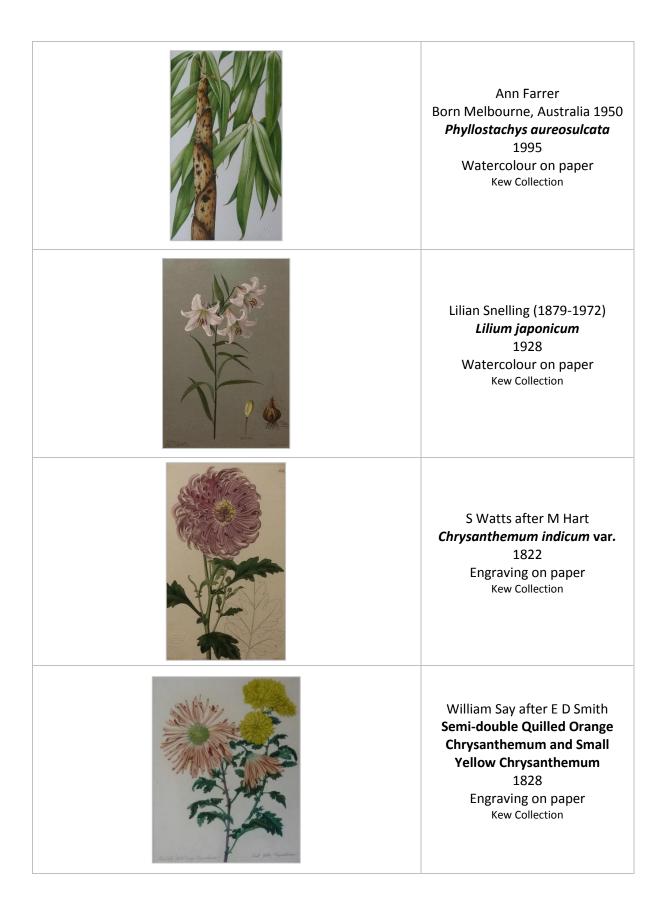


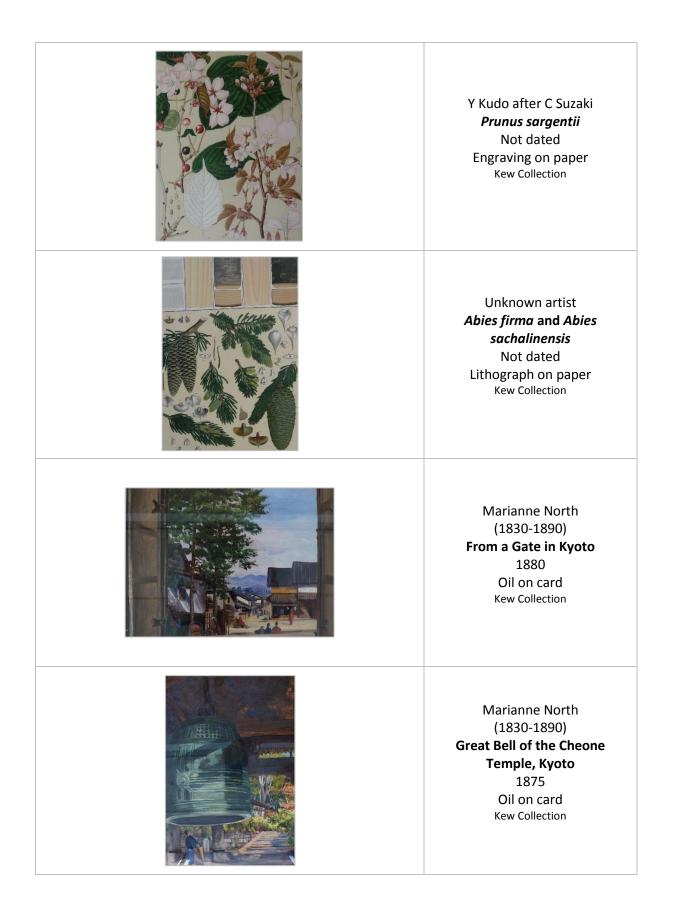
Margaret Stones Born Colac, Australia 1920 *Acer nikoense* 1962 Watercolour on paper Kew Collection

Margaret Stones Born Colac, Australia 1920 *Gentiana makinoi* 1962 Watercolour on paper Kew Collection

Pandora Sellars Born Herefordshire, England 1936 **Arisaema yamatense subsp. sugimotoi** 1984 Watercolour on paper Kew Collection



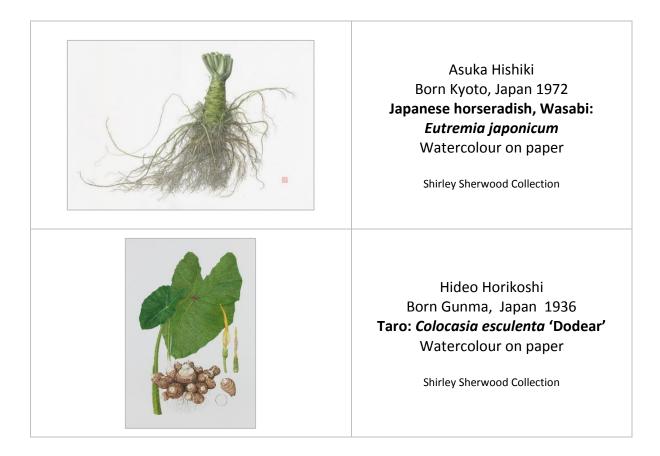


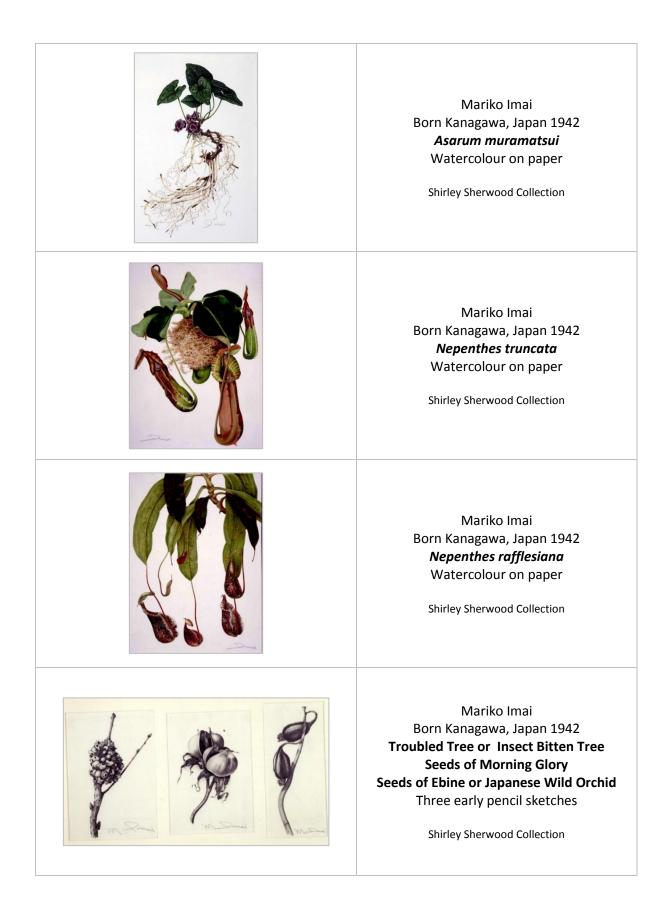


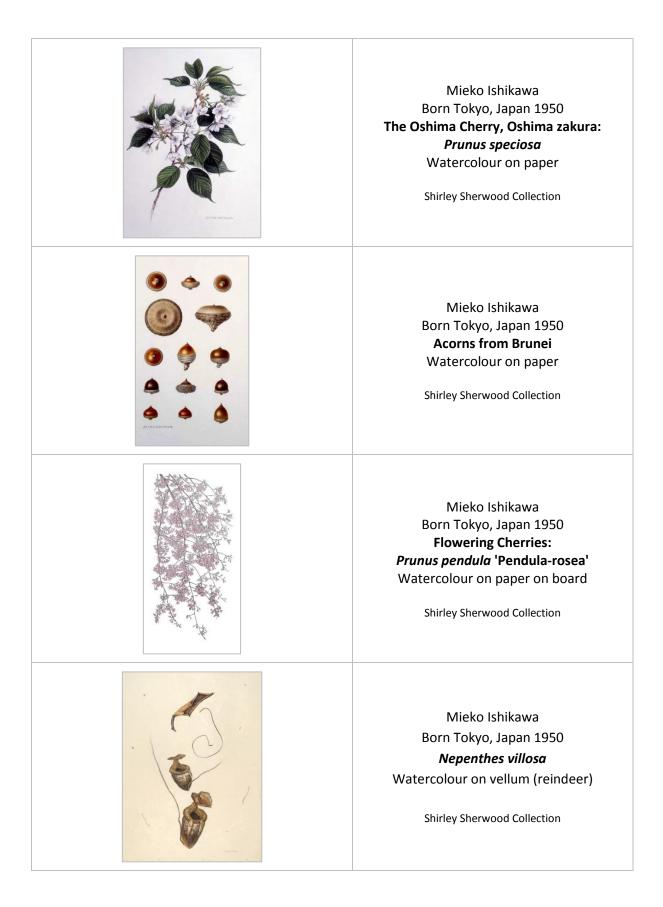
### Gallery 6 – Japanese artists in the Shirley Sherwood Collection

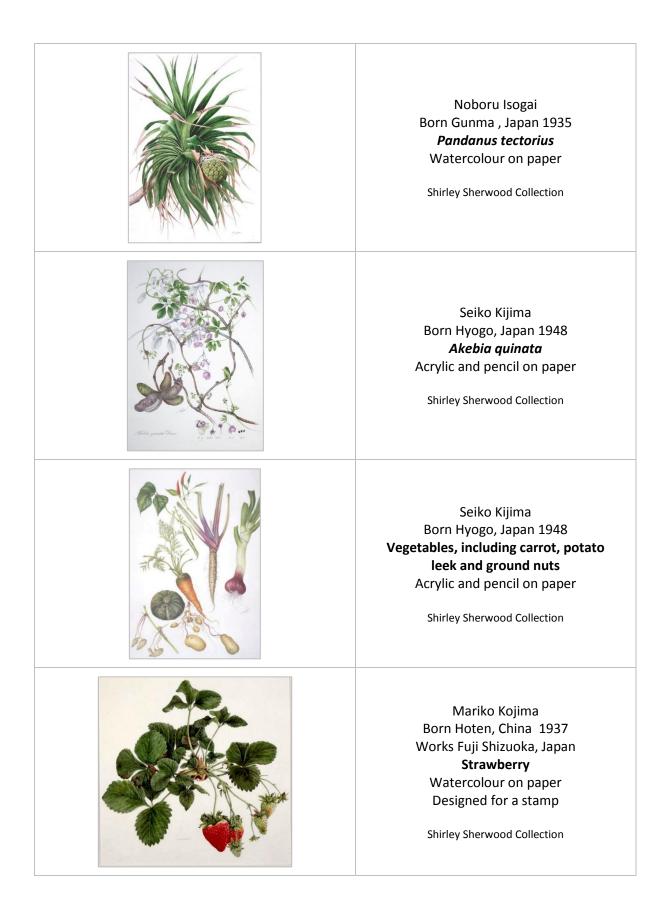
"Botanical art has always been an important part of Japanese culture. Nowadays there are societies and classes that flourish all over Japan. Nevertheless when I started acquiring botanical paintings from Japan 25 years ago it was quite hard to meet the artists themselves. Luckily I was introduced by the botanical art enthusiast Mr Kazunori Kurokawa who invited a number of artists to meet me in Tokyo. Keiko Saino and Chica Bjerrum also helped me with communication and travelled with me to meet artists and see exhibitions all over Japan. In 1998 and 2006 I held two major exhibitions of my collection in Tokyo. These were extremely well attended with thousands of people queuing to get up to the Seiji Togo Memorial Sompo Japan Nipponkoa Museum of Art (formerly Yasuda Kasai Museum of Art) where 'Sunflowers' by Van Gogh was also on show at the top of the skyscraper. Now, it is much easier to make contact with individual artists and to see their work on the internet. I am very proud that the works of so many Japanese artists of outstanding skill and ability can be seen here in the Shirley Sherwood Gallery."

Dr Shirley Sherwood (OBE)











Mariko Kojima Born Hoten, China 1937 Works Fuji Shizuoka, Japan **Rose** Watercolour on paper

Shirley Sherwood Collection



Asako Kuwajima Born Tokyo, Japan 1948 **Chinese Strawberry Tree:** *Myrica rubra* Watercolour on paper

Shirley Sherwood Collection



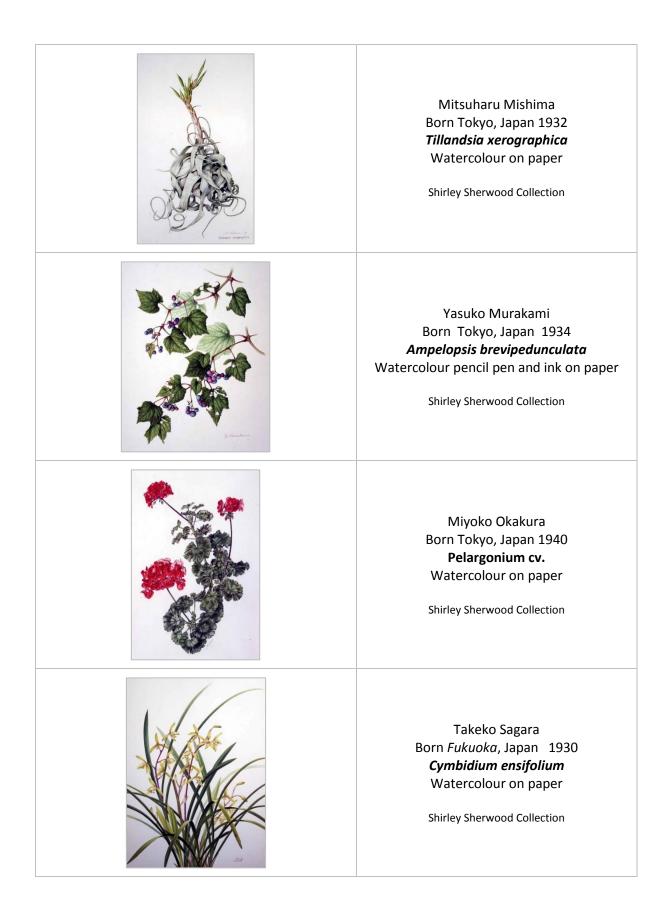


Kimiyo Maruyama Born Hyogo, Japan 1936 Japanese Persimmon: *Diospyros kaki* Watercolour on paper

Shirley Sherwood Collection

Kimiyo Maruyama Born Hyogo, Japan 1936 *Pinus thunbergii* Watercolour on board

Shirley Sherwood Collection





Manabu Saito Born Tokyo, Japan 1929, lives in USA *Ginkgo biloba* Watercolour on paper

Shirley Sherwood Collection

Masako Sasaki Born Japan 1939 *Streptocarpus* cv. Watercolour on paper

Shirley Sherwood Collection



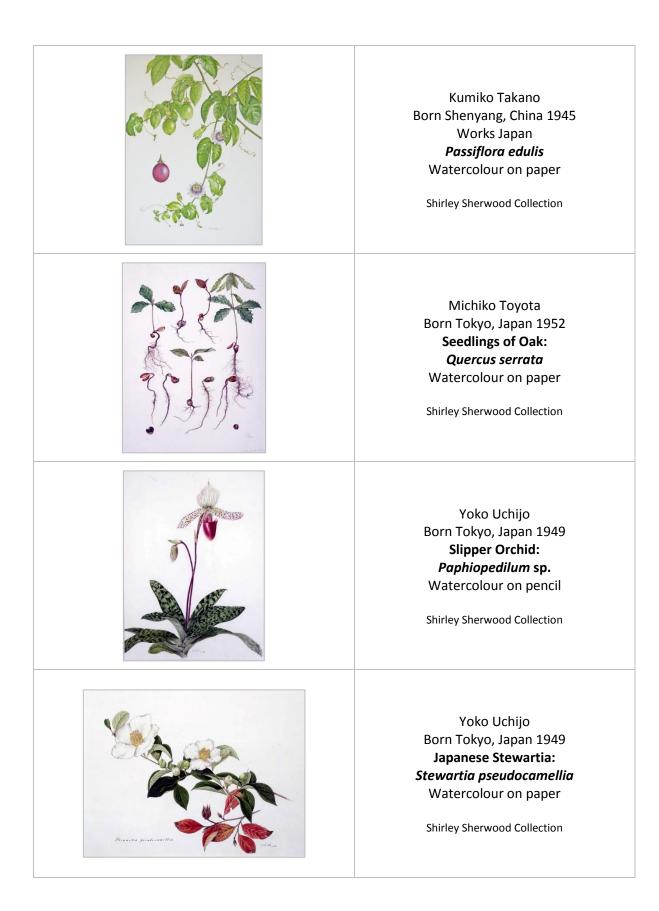
Hiroki Sato Japan (1925-1998) *Adonis vernalis* Watercolour on paper

Shirley Sherwood Collection



Kazuto Takahashi Born Changchun, China 1951 Works Japan **'Homage to Durer'** Sow Thistle: Sonchus oleraceus Watercolour on paper

Shirley Sherwood Collection





Noriko Watanabe Born Hiroshima, Japan 1954 **Rosa filipes 'Kiftsgate', in May** Watercolour on paper

Shirley Sherwood Collection