

# Jonathan Cooper

Park Walk Gallery

**Press Release**

**Work from Botanical Artists in the Collection of  
Dr Shirley Sherwood OBE**  
Celebrating 25 Years of her Collection



*Greater Knapweed*, by Rosie Sanders

*An Exhibition at Jonathan Cooper Park Walk Gallery  
23 April - 30 May 2015*

Jonathan Cooper Park Walk Gallery is delighted to be holding a selling exhibition of new works by botanical artists in the collection of Dr Shirley Sherwood OBE. The exhibition unites 18 outstanding contemporary artists, selected by Dr Sherwood, who is celebrating 25 years as a collector and supporter of botanical art.



*Papaver*, by Fiona Strickland

Botanical art has for centuries been closely linked to exploration, travel, and adventure, aiding and inspiring scientists in their quest to understand the natural world. The best botanical artists have always, however, combined technical skill in producing a faithful likeness of a specimen with their own artistic flair. The artists in this exhibition, drawn from four continents, represent the very best of contemporary botanical art, each differing in style, but all perfectly capturing the essence of their chosen subject. They include Beverly Allen, Francesca Anderson, Susannah Blaxill, Phansakdi Chakkaphak, Ingrid Finnan, Monika de Vries Gohlke, Coral Guest, Sue Herbert, Annie Hughes, Mieko Ishikawa, Kate Nessler, Susan Ogilvy, Rachel Pedder-Smith, Bryan Poole, Rosie Sanders, Fiona Strickland, Jessica Tcherepine, and Carol Woodin.

The Shirley Sherwood Gallery of Botanical Art in Kew Gardens is the first gallery dedicated solely to botanical art, displaying the works of living artists from the collection of Dr Shirley Sherwood OBE alongside the Garden's holdings. It is a vivid testament to the current renaissance of contemporary botanical art, demonstrating its fruitful dialogue with great masters of the past while highlighting the excellence of today's practitioners.

### **Listing Information:**

The gallery is open Monday – Friday 10am – 6.30pm and Saturday 11am – 4pm. Free Admission. Jonathan Cooper Park Walk Gallery, 20 Park Walk, London, SW10 0AQ.

### **Press Information:**

For more information or images please contact Rebecca Wall at [rebeccawall@jonathancooper.co.uk](mailto:rebeccawall@jonathancooper.co.uk) or on 020 7351 0410.

### **Notes to Editors:**



Interested in plants and art since childhood, **Dr Sherwood** earned her undergraduate degree in botany from Oxford University and her D.Phil working in a team which discovered the important drug Tagamet.

She started the Shirley Sherwood Collection in 1990, and it now includes 900 paintings and drawings, representing the work of over 240 contemporary artists from 30 countries around the world. Alongside curating exhibitions of works from her collection specially hung for the Shirley Sherwood Gallery, she has exhibited her collection in many other prestigious locations including the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, the Marciana Library in Venice and the Real Jardín Botánico Madrid. She has also written six books and many articles on botanical art.

The Sherwood family have all generously supported Kew with the building of the Shirley Sherwood Gallery of Botanical Art, the only purpose-designed botanical art gallery in the world. The gallery was opened in April 2008, and has between 2 – 3,000 visitors a week.

Awarded the OBE for services to botanical art in early 2012, Dr Sherwood is a Fellow of the Linnaean Society, was awarded the Veitch Memorial Medal by the Royal Horticultural Society and is an Hon. Fellow of St Anne’s College, Oxford.

**Jonathan Cooper Park Walk Gallery** - founded in 1988 - is a London based contemporary art gallery specialising in representational drawing, painting, photography and sculpture. The gallery is a member of SLAD (The Society of London Art Dealers), BADA (The British Antique Dealers Association) and LAPADA (The Association of Art & Antique Dealers), and regularly exhibits at international art fairs.



*Leaves*, by Rachel Pedder-Smith