



Connecting People with Nature
through Science and the Arts

“Native Flora & Fauna of the Midwest in Watercolor”

by Catherine Hu, Natural Science Illustrator
on display May 10- August 5, 2022!

Opening Reception: Tuesday, May 10 at 6pm

A portion of the proceeds will benefit The Green Center's education programs.



Artist Statement

I have a unique perspective as an artist because I am so immersed in the subjects of my paintings in my day to day life. I work as a land manager at Forest Park, conducting ecological restoration in the forests and savannas (helping degraded ecosystems become healthy again). I'm a self-taught artist and I paint to observe and learn about the natural world with a particular focus on native plants and animals of the Midwest. Therefore, it is important to me that my paintings are accurate and realistic. Using feathering, lifting, masking and layering, I capture details that aid in identification.

My main work is natural science illustration. The primary medium I use is transparent watercolor, but I'll occasionally add Japanese Gansai paint, gouache, colored pencil, or white gel pen. I am intrigued by the colors and shapes found in nature; I'm especially fascinated by relationships between organisms and how they have adapted to live with each other. My goal is to share the beautiful flora and fauna that occur naturally here in the Midwest and to hopefully encourage others to plant natives!

This exhibit features prints of pieces I painted in the past year. The larger paintings show the plant in different stages of its life. I've worked with each of these species closely in the field and painting them has furthered my understanding of what they look like in all seasons. I've also enjoyed painting birds and want to start including more animals into my work, especially insects that have interesting relationships with native plants.

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