

PRESS RELEASE

Oliver Balston – Account Manager
Midas PR, 7-8 Kendrick Mews London SW7 3HG
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7590 8900



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The Highgrove Florilegium Volumes I & II

Addison Publications

**A set of two hand-bound volumes of botanical prints. \$21,950
(650 x 475 x 60 mm)**

Volume II published May 2009

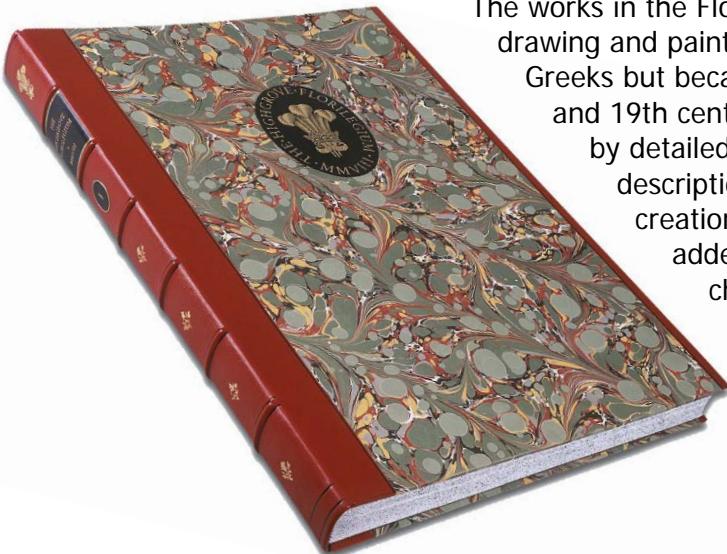


The first Florilegium in the United Kingdom to be inspired by a royal patron. Each copy is signed by HRH The Prince of Wales. This unique work celebrates The Prince's achievements in his garden at Highgrove.

- 120 original prints from botanical watercolour paintings is the culmination of over 6 years work.
- Limited to just 175 sets, The Highgrove Florilegium is offered at \$21,950
- Although there are no plans to sell these beautiful watercolours on the open market, each original painting is estimated to be worth up to \$14,000, making the combined collection worth well over a million dollars.
- Each set is signed by HRH The Prince of Wales and each individual print is hand-embossed with plate and edition numbers added in pencil.
- Published during his 60th birthday year, HRH personally contributed to many stages of the design and personally selected all the papers and leather.
- Each subscriber to one of the 175 copies will be listed in the book itself.
- To be launched on 12th May with an exhibition which will be the first ever opportunity to see the original watercolours in the UK in the Garden Museum, Lambeth Palace Road SE1.

THE HIGHGROVE FLORILEGIUM unites two of The Prince's passions – horticulture and painting. It is an initiative to record a selection of plants and trees from the 15 acres of garden at Highgrove. Leading botanical artists from around the world were invited to submit watercolour paintings for selection by a distinguished panel and the resulting collection displays every facet of this great garden; with plants both decorative and useful, old and new, rare and ravishing.

The works in the Florilegium revitalise the art of botanical drawing and painting, which can be traced back to the ancient Greeks but became especially popular during the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. Each depicted plant is accompanied by detailed text, including its formal Latin name and a description giving a brief history of its discovery or creation, distribution, ecology and uses. To this is added the salient diagnostic features and key characteristics for identification. The result is a visual delight and an important record for posterity.



**For further information please contact
Oliver Balston on 020 7590 8900 or email
Oliver.Balston@midaspr.co.uk**

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The Highgrove Florilegium Exhibition, The Garden Museum 12th May – 31st August 2009

- This will be the first time The Prince's original watercolours from the Florilegium are to be exhibited in UK (Previous exhibitions held at The Huntington, California and NYSID, New York).
- All 73 of the international artists contributing to the Florilegium will be represented.
- The exhibition will be the first art exhibition to be held in the newly opened museum on the site where John Tradescant- the first man to compile a florilegium focusing on just one magnificent garden is buried in 1638.
- The exhibition coincides with Chelsea Flower Show.

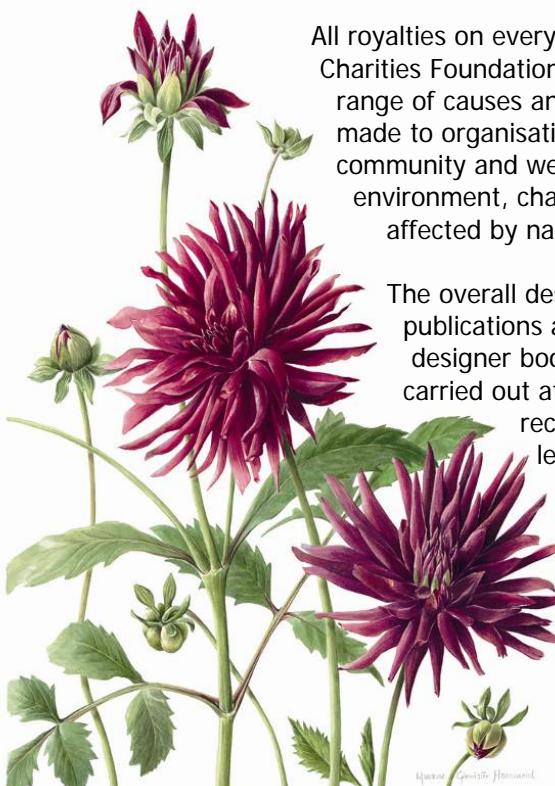
About the Book:

In ancient times florilegia were created to record plants for medical reasons and later to record findings by explorers. The modern Florilegium is a way of celebrating a garden by recording its contents – a concept begun by John Tradescant for Hatfield House in the 17th Century.

The images in The Highgrove Florilegium have been printed by St Ives Westerham Press in Kent at full size on the finest printing paper using the stochastic-lithographic process. Working from the original watercolours, the prints go through many stages of proofing and constant checking against the original. Each image is hand-embossed with edition number and plate number written in pencil. The artists' signatures are printed at the foot of each sheet.

The Publication contains the following material:

- A preface by HRH The Prince of Wales
- Introductions by Professor Christopher Humphries FLS of the Natural History Museum and Christopher Mills, Librarian, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
- Title pages for each plant
- Botanical text - compiled at the Natural History Museum
- The second volume will include a list of subscribers



All royalties on every sale will go to The Prince's Charities Foundation. The Prince's Charities Foundation enables The Prince of Wales to give his support to a wide range of causes and projects by making charitable donations. Donations are made to organisations working with environmental issues, health and hospices, community and welfare, education and training, heritage and the built environment, charities supporting servicemen and women and towards people affected by natural disasters. www.princeofwales.gov.uk

The overall design of the book is overseen by Iain Bain, former head of publications at the Tate. The books are hand-bound to a design by leading designer bookbinder James Brockman. The collating, sewing and binding is carried out at the Yorkshire bindery of Stephen Conway. All finishing, including recessed front cover leather label and hand tooling the spine in gold leaf, is carried out by James and Stuart Brockman in Oxfordshire. All printing is overseen by John Parfitt at St Ives Westerham Press in Kent. Victoria Hall designs and makes the marbled paper at her studio in Norfolk. Richard Shirley Smith has drawn features from the Highgrove Garden which are incorporated into the text pages and a specially printed end paper. Leather is supplied by leather merchants J. Hewit and Sons in Edinburgh. Each volume comes with a hand made protective felt cover by Liz Brown of 'Heartfelt' in Ayrshire.

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