

Botanically Speaking

The Quarterly Newsletter of DK Designs

March 1, 2011

Volume 2, Issue 1

Welcome to Our Second Year!

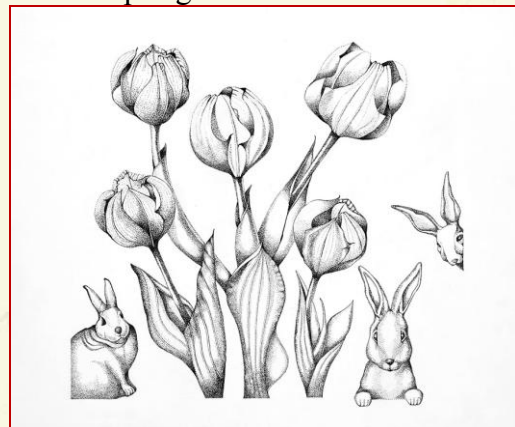
As I write these words on a chilly winter day, I realize that most of you—like me and my stalwart Ohio neighbors—are digging out from one of the coldest and snowiest winters in recent history!

Looking out my studio window at a wintry mix and a thermometer taking an incremental nose-dive hardly evoke thoughts of the coming Spring—until I look at the tuft of yellow primroses on my drafting table. I have only to see the progress I've made over the past few days on my current botanical portrait, and I cannot wait to get back to it. Suddenly, the renewal of Spring isn't so far away. And the day will come soon when I'll be displaying primroses in the sunshine on my gardening bench.

When people ask me why I love botanical art so much, I always say that, like Spring, it holds the promise of renewal. Through the inevitable ups and downs of Life, I can always look forward to creating a new piece that will help me improve my skills and, most important, teach me more about the miraculous world in which we live. Every botanical image I create gives me the opportunity to appreciate our beloved Mother Earth in yet another way.

With this newsletter, DK Designs is entering its second year. Our first year—2010—was filled with professional gains and community recognition. We donated art to a worthy cause, taught classes filled with *hardworking* students, and developed botanical designs that reflect our mission of evoking the peace and healing of the natural world. But personally, we also mourned the loss of four dear friends, two beloved cats, and my 91-year-old Dad.

Through it all, botanical art was—and always will be—with me, showing me the wisdom of the cycle of life. As we enter our second year, we wish you happiness, good health, and the renewal of Spring.



"Hannah's World" (pen and ink, © 2005). I created this "Welcome-to-the-World" present for my grandniece Hannah the year she was born.

*"Life is short and we never have enough time for gladdening the hearts of those who travel with us. O, be swift to love! Make haste to be kind."
Henri Frédéric Amiel (1821–1881)*

Deborah's Spring Class Schedule

Botanical Illustration II: Colored Pencil

**UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
MATTHAEI BOTANICAL GARDENS**

Saturdays, 6 Weeks

March 12, 19, 26; April 2, 9, 16

9:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Create beautiful and realistic botanical drawings with the versatile medium of colored pencil. You will work from live plant specimens and explore techniques such as blending and burnishing. Each session includes demonstration and practice in drawing botanicals.

Botanical Illustration III: Painting

**UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
MATTHAEI BOTANICAL GARDENS**

Saturdays, 6 Weeks

May 7, 4, & 21 (No class May 29)

June 4, 11, & 19

9:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Explore natural science illustration techniques in watercolor, such as glazing, blending, and dry brush to create photoreal botanical portraits. A botanical specimen is provided for the first class. A supply list will be sent before the first class. Some experience in drawing botanicals and painting in watercolors is helpful, but beginning artists are welcome!



For registration information, access:

<http://www.lsa.umich.edu/mbg/learn/registration.asp>

UM Matthaei Botanical Gardens

1800 N. Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48105
(734) 647-7600

*"We receive everything, both life and happiness;
but the manner in which we receive,
this is what is still ours.
Henri-Frédéric Amiel*



Bob Rice doing his preliminary drawings for his final project in Colored Pencil at Edgerton Art

Student Work from the Winter 2011 Term at Edgerton Art and UM Matthaei Botanical Gardens

Here and on the next two pages, enjoy some images from the beautiful work produced by our students at Edgerton Art in Perrysburg and at the University of Michigan Matthaei Botanical Gardens!



*Radishes by Clair Schaeffer, Colored Pencil,
Edgerton Art*



Turning Leaf by Martha Hitchiner, Graphite, UM



Haworthia by JoAnn Dionne, Graphite, UM



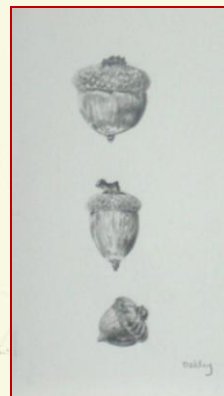
Flowering Kale by Diane Swanbrow Yuhasz, Graphite, UM



Tulip by Delores Mooney, Graphite, UM



*Above:
Beets by
Christina
Fisher,
Graphite,
UM*

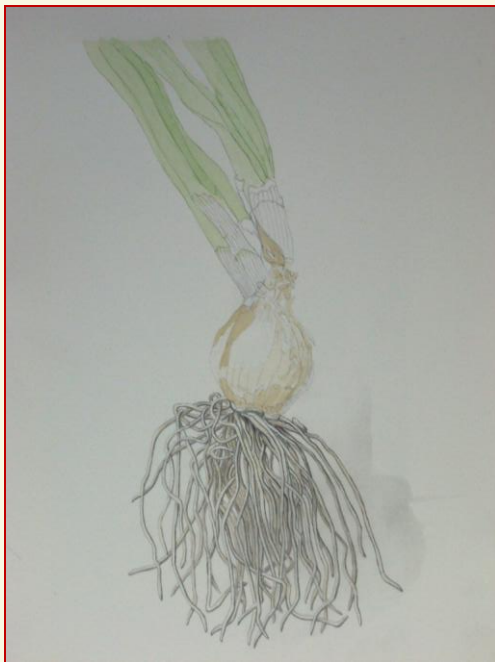


*Right:
Acorns by
Antonia
Oakley,
Graphite,
UM*

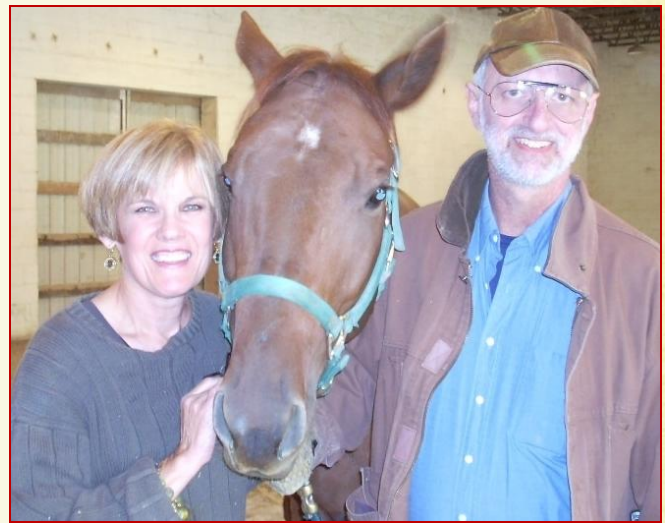
Passport Series Now Available from Lorenz Educational Press

My *Passport Series* is now available from Lorenz Educational Press in Dayton, Ohio!

This eight-book series for Grades 4–8 visits more than 50 countries from all seven continents. Units feature in-depth studies of each country's history, culture, language, foods, and more! Reproducible pages provide cross-curricular reinforcement and bonus content like activities, recipes, and games. To order, access lorenzeducationalpress.com. You can also search **Deborah Kopka** on amazon.com.



Study of Complex Root System on a Bulb by Bryant Mitchell, Colored Pencil, Edgerton Art



Deb and Den with Sugar, our 7-year-old equine daughter.

Enjoy the Botanical Blessings of Spring!

Wherever you are, we hope you have some quiet moments to enjoy (and draw and paint) the botanicals of spring. And don't forget to light a candle for hope in your window, too, for our beloved Mother Earth. All of us at DK Designs wish you roots, shoots, and budding botanicals from our Ohio home and studio where our roots are planted deep.

***May the gifts of nature inspire, enrich, and heal you.
And may you always remember:***

"Heaven is under our feet as well as over our heads."

DK Designs
Deborah Kopka, Principal
Dennis Zeisloft, Business Manager
419-873-8426 (voice) 419-873-8436 (fax)
dkopka@ameritech.net
www.dkdesigns.org

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