



BARBARA ELLIOTT

ARTIST STATEMENT

I am fascinated by the order, symmetry and diversity of the natural world. My objective is to hone my observational skills and to better understand the unique structures found in nature. To this end, I find that flowers and plants provide an exuberant and endless variety of subject matter.

My subjects are generally drawn from my garden and depend upon the season. I work entirely from life and do not use photographic references. Because of this, the fragile nature of a cut flower usually requires that I complete the work in one sitting.

The watercolors evolve from an image lightly drawn on a cold press watercolor paper. I apply my pigment in a series of light washes to achieve the depth and variation of color of the final piece. After the final wash has dried, details are added with a fine point dry brush.

My drawings are sketchbook studies that help me to better understand and record the structure of a plant and keep a record of its growing cycle. I work entirely in pen and ink, and, like the watercolors, these studies are completed in one sitting, directly from life. I prefer watercolor and ink as media because they are easy to “take along”, permanent, and ultimately provide an opportunity to work through imperfection.