

Exotic Botanical Prints by Birgitta Volz



Dendrobium I. Unitat 2
Birgitta Volz 2008

Exotic Botanical Prints by the Artist Birgitta Volz

„Beauty is the manifestation of the Divine in matter “.

With this quotation* you can easily describe the present work of German artist Birgitta Volz.

Birgitta is well known for her precise and delicate art work with wood and bark prints, in which she skillfully brings to life the natural structures of her materials.

Her interest in the classic study - "Flower pictures" - seems to be a surprise, until you realize that the artist is reinventing this subject in a completely new way.

Within her simple black & white prints she catches every nuance of the plant's texture, showing us details and structures which would otherwise remain invisible or unnoticed. These botanical prints seem to be very natural, but they are far from being simple copies of nature.

Unpretentious at first glance, her prints reveal themselves as carefully arranged, fantastical compositions.

Her work with flowers is so far the most challenging technical task for this experienced print maker, because their delicate structures often fall apart at the first touch of the printing ink. Then they have to be recomposed as a complex collage, petal by petal and leaf by leaf.

Playing with different shades of grey, she skillfully combines them to create depth and space, constructing a giant puzzle and an inventive patience game.

Birgitta needs several days to complete her larger art work. The results are striking in their simple beauty, ranging from very tiny prints on paper up to banners of 1 ½ meters on delicate cloth.

The "Indian inspiration"*** within her work is included by using the local flora and by pasting the prints on transparent lace and framing them with abundant local cloth borders. This creates a lovely contrast between the simple black & white print and its luxurious cloth framing.

Her work gains an extra dimension when the texture of the cloth is shining through the paper or when the shadows of the plant shades become visible on the wall behind.

On the question of what she wants to express with her art work, Birgitta replies:

"I want people to open up to the beauty and vulnerability of nature.

My aim is to create a consciousness which is guiding the spectator above the superficial aspect of obvious beauty, so that some manage to gain access to the spiritual aspects of nature***.

Björn Lewalter (art historian)

* The founder of Auroville, Mira Alfassa, known as "the Mother"

** Birgitta has been living since 2005 in the international township of Auroville near Pondicherry, India

*** Literature: The Mother – The Spiritual Significance of Flowers

Kunst Schaefer Gallery, Wiesbaden, Germany, May 2009



Birgitta Volz between 2 of her Flower - Banners

top: *Passiflora incarnata* 19, 2008 and *Bauhinia variegata* 1, 2009, size: 150 x 61 cm
down: Orchidaceae banner 1, 2009 and several flower prints, mounted on stretchers (different size)





Installation of large
Flower Banners,
150 x 61 cm and 122 x 50
cm, in the
Citadyn Art Gallery,
Auroville, India, 2012
(above and right side)
and in the
"RCSC"- Russian Cultural
Centre", Chennai, India,
2014



Botanical print exhibition in the romantic ruins of Dubolhati palace, Bangladesh, 2019

Birgitta printed some of the plants which have been invading the palace premises.

Birgitta printing and hanging her prints up for drying.

Exhibition in the palace with enlarged digital prints on plastic. The walls were too dusty for the fragile originals on paper.



Right side:

2 small plant print banners
(originals: 61 x 21 cm)
enlarged as huge digital





Aurodhan Art Gallery, Pondicherry, India, 2010

Installation with large Flower-Banners
oil colour on delicate cloth, visible on both sides
size: each 150 x 61 cm



2 Flower Banners:

Iris bulleyana 1, 2010
and
Hibiscus Fahne 1, 2010





2 Flower Banners:

er somniferum 1, 2010
and
osa floribunda 1, 2010

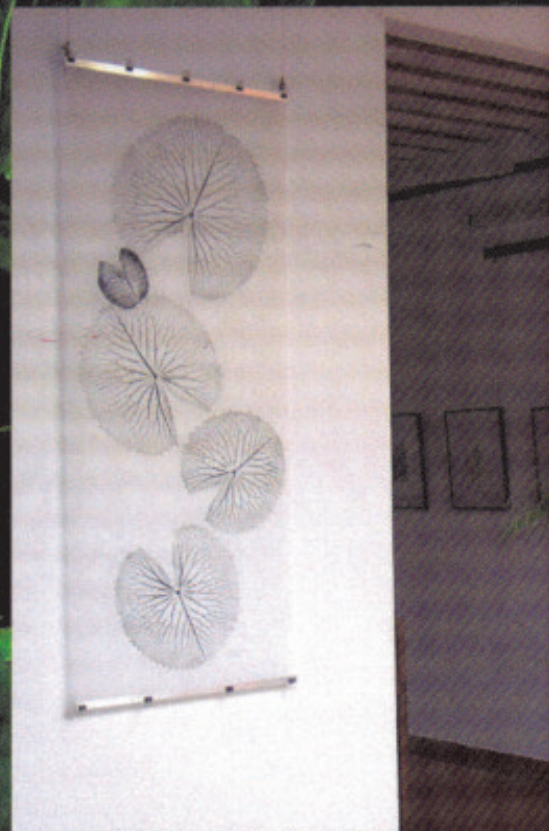
Series of Small

size: each 123 x 50 cm

Aquilegia vulgaris Banner 7, 2009



5 small Flower-Banners, Kalakendra



Pitanga Cultural Center, E
Nymphaea Banner

Flower-Banners

Oil colour on delicate cloth

Paeonia banner 2, 2009



Exhibition Hall, Auroville, India, 2010



Exhibition Hall Auroville, India, 2006
Size: 150 x 61 cm





Exhibition "Exotic Botanical Prints"
by Birgitta Volz, Matahari Gallery,
Munic, Germany, 2009

left side up:
Passiflora incarnata Unikat 2, 2008
Oil colour on Chinese paper
size: 97 x 97 cm

left side down:
Bauhinia variegata Unikat 3, 2009
size: 90 x 120 cm

right side:
Kunst Schaefer Gallery, Wiesbaden
small plant prints on cloth
size: 55 x 45 cm





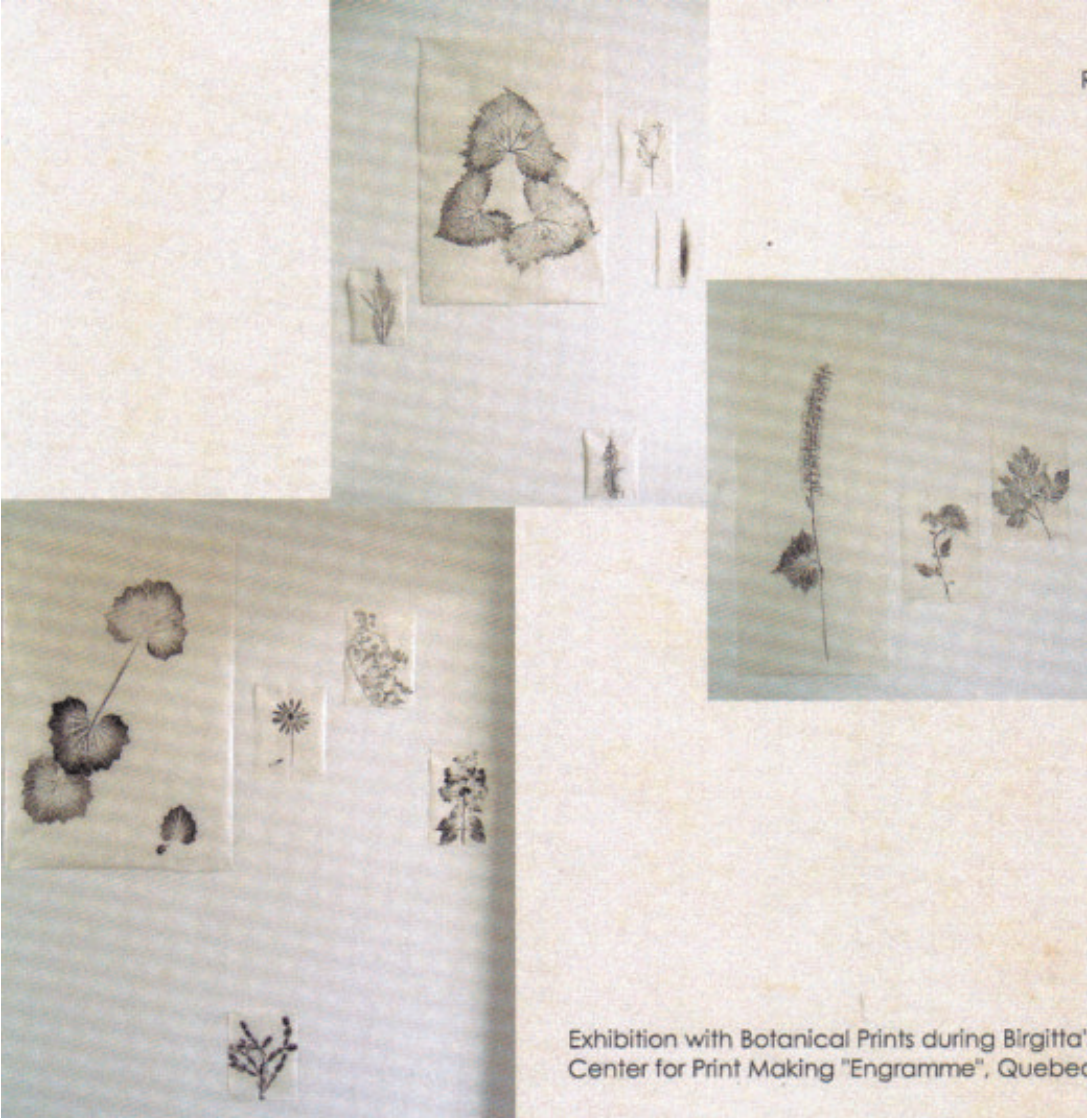
top: Matahari Gallery, Munic, Germany, 2009
 6 small plant prints on Daphne paper
 size: 21 x 15 cm, frame size 30 x 30 cm



right side: Dendrobium Unikat 5, 2009
 size: 97 x 40 cm, oil colour on Chinese paper



Rosa floribunda Unikat 2, 2010
size: 70 x 50 cm
Oil colour on Chinese paper



Exhibition with Botanical Prints during Birgitta's fellowship in the
Center for Print Making "Engramme", Quebec, Canada, 2002





Rosa floribunda
Hort. 2.
Biggill, N.Y. 2005

Aurodhan Art Gallery Pondicherry, India

Waterlilies 1 and 2, 2010

size: 98 x 122 cm and 120 x 140 cm

Plant Prints with oil colour on Chinese paper,
pasted on transparent cloth,
framed with blue velvet
and mounted on a stretcher.



small plant prints with oil colour
on Chinese paper,
pasted on lace,
framed with velvet or satin
and mounted on a stretcher.

size approx. 55 x 45 cm



right side down:
Orchidaceae langblütig
1, 2010
oil colour on Chinese paper
119 x 84 cm

middle:
Nelumbo nucifera 12, 2008
oil colour on Japanese paper
90 x 40 cm

right side:
Tilia cordata 25, 2007
Bark print with
oil colour on Japanese paper
70 x 100 cm



Dendrobium
Unikat 8, 2009
size: 57 x 49 cm





Begonia 6, 2009
size: 60 x 49 cm



Crossandra 4, 2009 size:
57 x 47 cm



Bauhinia variegata 12,
2009
size: 57 x 49 cm



Gloriosa superba
22, 2008
size: 57 x 49 cm



Anthurium
andreaeanum 6, 2008
size: 55 x 45 cm



Orchidaceae
Dendrobium groß
11, 2009
size: 63 x 54 cm

Plant Print Series with oil
colour on Chinese paper,
pasted on lace,
framed with a cloth border,
mounted on a stretcher.



Rosa gallica 7, 2009
size: 59 x 52 cm



Orchidaceae
Dendrobium 7, 2009
size: 52 x 41 cm

Orchidaceae
groß 13, 2009
size: 57 x 47 cm



Opuntia ficus indica
10, 2008
size: 47 x 38 cm

Tagetes erecta 2,
2009
size: 59 x 49 cm







Water Lily Pond Unikat 1, 2008

size: 110 x 144 cm

plant print and
collage on lace,
with cloth border,
mounted on a stretcher

Pitanga Exhibition Hall
Auroville, India, 2008





Small text label next to the top right illustration.



Small text label next to the middle right illustration.



Small text label next to the bottom right illustration.



Pitanga Exhibition Hall, Auroville, India, 2008

down: presented as wall hangings, left side: framed on stretchers



5 plant prints with oil colour on Chinese paper and green cotton,
partly with a collage of the printed plant.

Iris pseudacorus Unikat 4, 2008, size: 89 x 49 cm

Heliconia psittacorum Unikat 6, 2008, size: 89 x 54 cm

and

Stapelia nobilis Unikat 6, 2008, size: 55 x 45 cm

Iris pseudacorus Unikat 12, 2008, size: 43 x 33 cm

Fructus borassi flabelliferis Unikat 7, 2008, size: 47 x 37 cm



Lyonia corniculata
Hook. & G.
Seymour, Mass.



Paeonia officinalis 7, 2009, size: 90 x 40 cm
Papaver somniferum 4, 2010, size: 90 x 40 cm
Hibiscus Unikat 5, 2010, size: 100 x 70 cm

Flower Prints with Oil Colour on Chinese Paper

Rosa floribunda 10, 2010, Format: 30 x 21 cm
Michelia champaca 4, 2010, Format: 90 x 90 cm



Exhibition of the results of the "Baobab expedition" in the Franco-Namibian Cultural Centre, Windhoek, 2018

These plant prints were an additional section in Birgitta's big FNCC exhibition with the title: "David Livingstone's Paradise on Earth", apart from her bark prints from the huge Baobab.

Birgitta tried to create the ambience of the Linyanti Swamps with her plant prints combined with Konny von Schmettau's photographs.

Right side: Series of 9 grass prints with oil colour on Japanese paper, size: 30 x 21 cm each

below: Konny's photographs of the Caprivi area and 3 of Birgitta's plant prints, oil colour on Chinese paper, size: 100 x 70 cm and underneath:

Series of plant prints on delicate banner fabric, each 150 x 61 cm



Thysanota hirsuta
 Hook. & A.
 Gay, Ill. 1818



Lygodes campyl.
 Hook. & A.
 Gay, Ill. 1818



Stenogramma corymb.
 Hook. & A.
 Gay, Ill. 1818



Fragaria hirsuta
 Hook. & A.
 Gay, Ill. 1818



Lygodes ciliata
 Hook. & A.
 Gay, Ill. 1818



Stenogramma ciliata
 Hook. & A.
 Gay, Ill. 1818



Lygodes hirsuta
 Hook. & A.
 Gay, Ill. 1818



Lygodes hirsuta
 Hook. & A.
 Gay, Ill. 1818



Stenogramma ciliata
 Hook. & A.
 Gay, Ill. 1818



Alvira
Mar 24 1
Bijith Vl
2001





Delicate plant prints from the
island of Ibiza, Spain, 2001

Oil colour on Chinese paper
size: each 30 x 21 cm





Convallaria majalis
Humboldt 1
Bispebjerg Nørh 1009



Dianthus caryophyllus
Number 2
Biggla 16th 2009



Flower prints 2009
Oil colour on
Chinese paper
size: each 30 x 21 cm



Dianthus barbatus
Number 1
Biggla 16th 2009



Dianthus barbatus
Number 2
Biggla 16th 2009



Fabrya gracilis
Number 1
Biggla 16th 2009



Dianthus barbatus
Number 1
Biggla 16th 2009



Dianthus barbatus
Number 1
Biggla 16th 2009



Prints of different herbs, 2001-08
Oil colour on Chinese paper
size: 30 x 21 cm

Holcus lanatus
Herb 1
Dagilka 2007



Plant prints with oil colour on
Japanese paper, 2008
painted in blue and transparent
size: each 30 x 21 cm



March 12
April 2008





Orchidaceae *Mon. bot.* 9-2003



Plant prints with oil colour on Japanese paper, 2010
 painted in blue and transparent, size: each 30 x 21 cm.

These pictures can be presented inside of wall lamp
 shades (right side down).

Also larger prints could be framed with light from behind.





Plant prints with oil colour on
Japanese paper,
painted in blue and transparent

top: Liane Unikat 15, 2001
size: 40 x 90 cm



right side:
Strubbelfarn Unikat 3, 2009
size: 40 x 90 cm

left side:
Banyantree roots 1, 2009
size: 90 x 40 cm

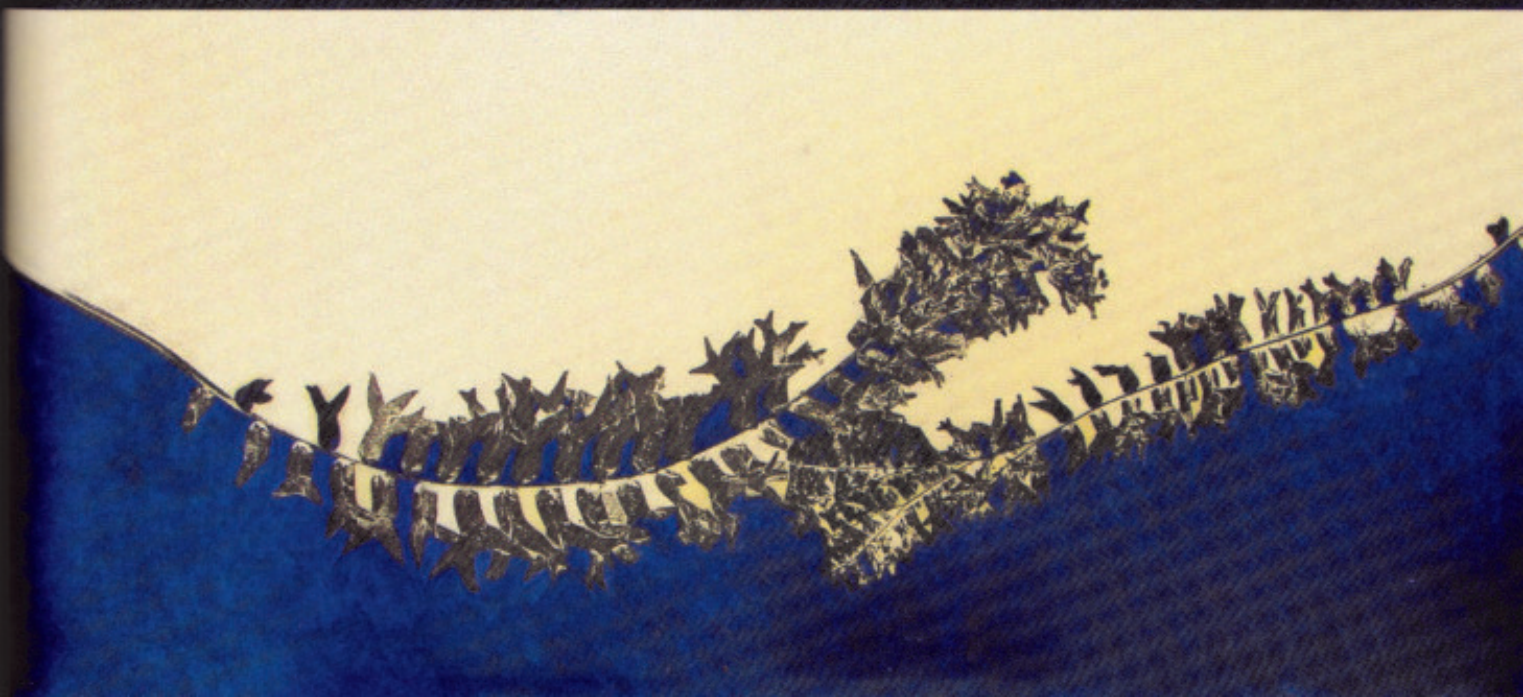


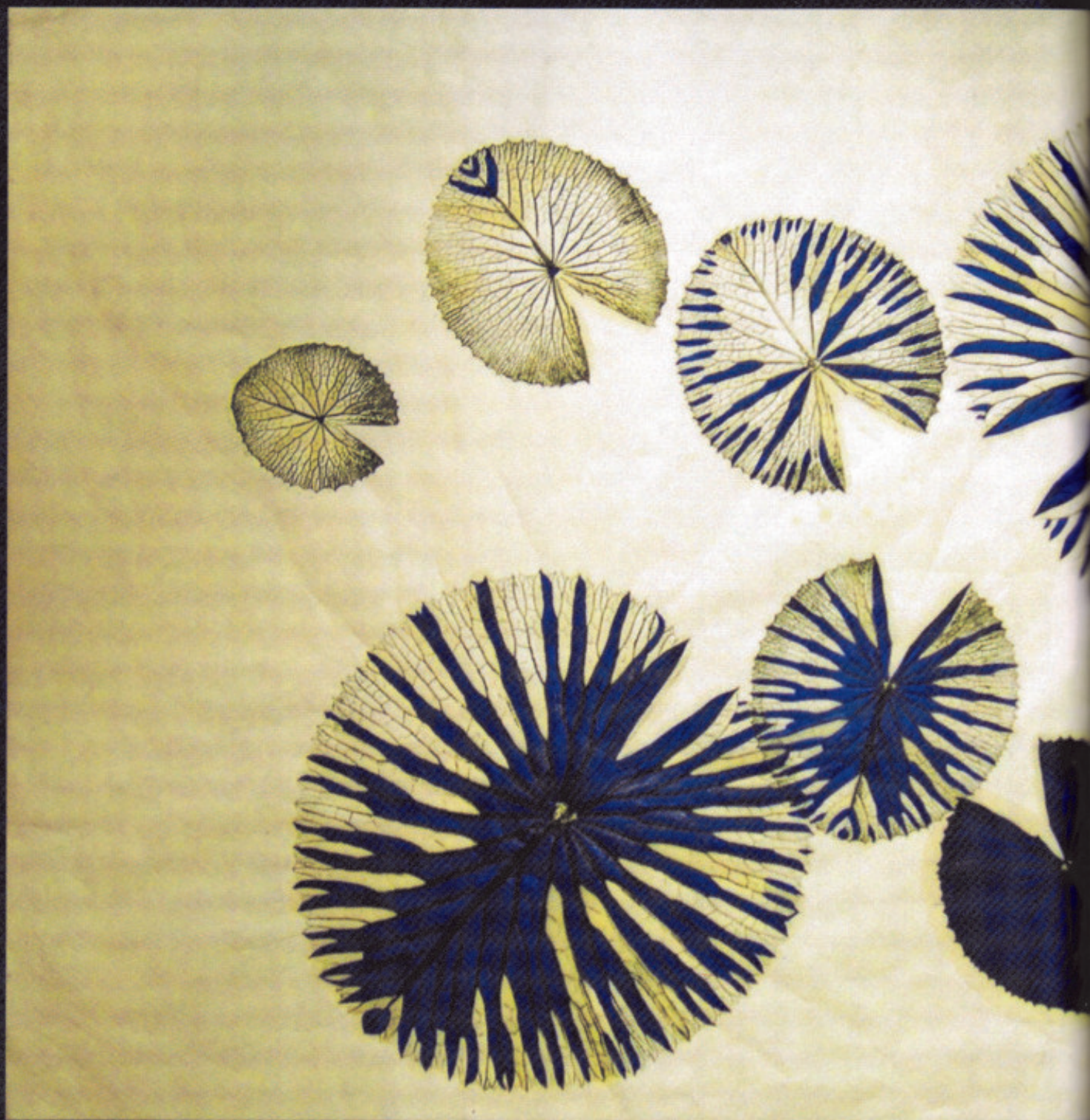
Photographs of Birgitta's exhibition
at Matahari Gallery, Munich, 2009

Plant prints in different sizes:
top: 70 x 50 cm, 30 x 21 cm
left side: 100 x 70 cm,
90 x 40 cm, 84 x 119 cm, 70 x 100 cm



top: *Gloriosa superba* Unikat 9, 2008
size: 90 x 40 cm





Plant prints with oil colour on

top: *Nymphaea rubra* Unikat

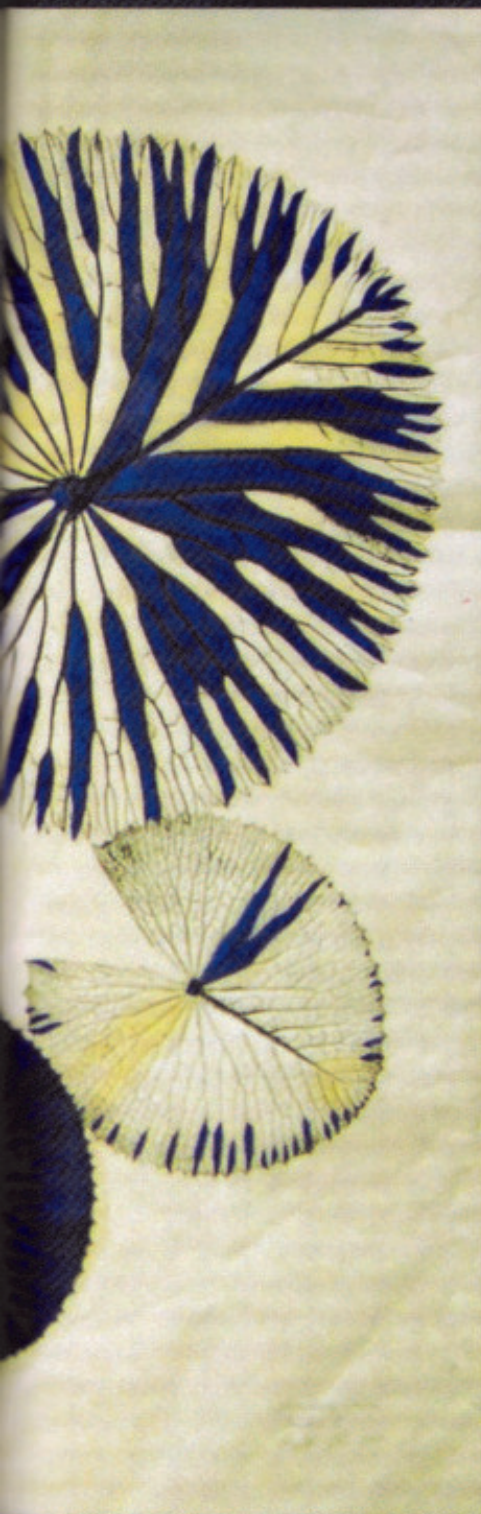
left side:

Gentiana lutea Unikat 15,

Carica papaya Unikat 9,

right side:

Nelumbo nucifera Unikat 12

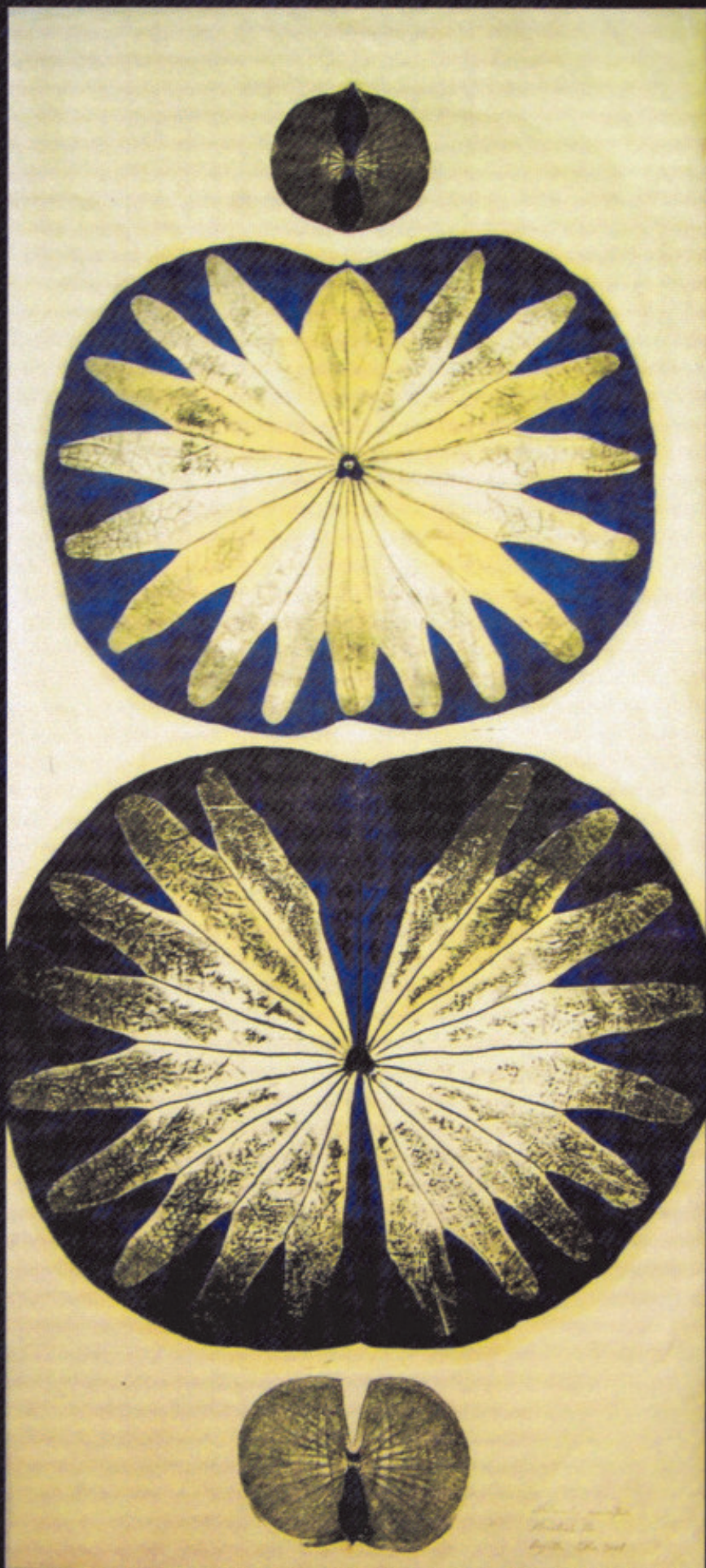


Japanese paper, painted in blue

13, 2008, size: 90 x 120 cm

2002, size: 84 x 119 cm and
2003, size: 90 x 120 cm

2008, size: 90 x 40 cm



Birgitta Volz: Curriculum Vitae

- Origins from Nuremberg, Germany
 - 1982 Begins artistic works with woodcuts
 - 1985. Youngest member of the Association of Professional Artists, Nuremberg
 - 1984-88 Studies at the Würzburg College, Germany (Commercial Art), BA
 - 1987. Guest student at the "Academia de Bellas Artes", Madrid, Spain
 - 1988-91 MA-Programme for Graphic Arts at the University of Modern Arts in Kassel
- 
- 1996 Invitation to lecture at the College of Art, New Delhi, India, as an invited guest of the German Cultural Institute
 - 1997 Invitation to lecture at the University for Modern Arts in Porto, Portugal, as an invited guest of the Goethe Institute
 - 1993-98 Fellowship in the House of Fine Arts, Wiesbaden, Germany
 - 1998 Rewarded the HAP-Griehaber-Prize for woodcut
 - 1999 One year fellowship of the Bavarian Government at the "International House of Artists Villa Concordia" in Bamberg, Germany
 - 2000 Awarded by the "New Saxonian Gallery"
 - Invitation to lecture at the College of Art in Kumasi, Ghana, as an invited guest of the German Cultural Institute and of the French Cultural Institute
 - 2001 Fellowship of the German-Italian Institute "Villa Vigoni", Como, Italy
 - 2003 Brenner's "Artists in Residence" Fellowship, Baden-Baden, Germany
 - Fellowship at the "Centre Est-Nord-Est", St-Jean-Port-Joli, Canada
 - 2004 Artist in residence at "Engramme", Quebec, Canada
 - 2005 Birgitta is joining the international community of Auroville in the south of India and she is founding her own jewellery design label "Matrigold" (www.matrigold.in)
 - 2014 International Narrative Art Residency, Goa Chitra Museum, India
 - 2018 International Chittorgarh Art Festival, Medan, India
 - "Research of the Invisible" project in the bush of in Namibia to print a 3000 year old Baobab tree
 - 2019 International Art Camp, Auroville, India
 - Internationale Werkstattwoche Lueben, Germany
 - Residential Art Exchange Program „Uronto“, Bangladesh

Botanical Prints:

Birgitta's botanical prints seem to be very natural, but they are far from being simple copies of nature.

Unpretentious at first glance, her prints reveal themselves as carefully arranged, fantastical compositions. Her work with flowers is so far the most challenging technical task for this experienced print maker because their delicate structures often fall apart at the first touch of the printing ink. Then they have to be recomposed as a complex collage, petal by petal and leaf by leaf. Playing with different shades of grey, she skillfully combines them to create depth and space, constructing a giant puzzle and an inventive patience game.

On the question of what she wants to express with her art work, Birgitta replies: "I want people to open up to the beauty and vulnerability of nature. My aim is to create a consciousness which is guiding the spectator above the superficial aspect of obvious beauty, so that some manage to gain access to the spiritual aspects of nature".

"Ficus religiosa" banner 2, 2019

size: 61 x 21 cm

plant print on delicate banner material

Those beautiful temple trees are some of the most destructive plants invading buildings.



Solo Exhibitions (selected)

- 2020 Aurodhan Art Gallery, Pondicherry, India
Exhibition Hall of the Tibetan Pavillon, Auroville, India
- 2018 FNCC (French-Namibian Cultural Centre), Windhoek, Namibia
- 2017 Leon-Art Gallery Nuremberg, Germany
- 2015 Citadines Centre d'Art, Auroville, India
- 2014 RCSC, Russian Cultural Centre, Chennai, India
- 2013 "International House of Artists Villa Concordia",
Bamberg, Germany
- 2012 Citadyn Centre d'Art, Auroville, India
Pitanga Cultural Center, Auroville, India
- 2011 Botanical Art Gallery, Thuengersheim, Germany
- 2010 Aurodhan Art Gallery, Pondicherry, India
Weaver's Studio Gallery, Kolkata, India
- 2009 Kunst Schaefer Gallery, Wiesbaden, Germany
Mata Hari Exhibition Space, Munich, Germany
- 2008 Pitanga Cultural Center, Auroville, India
Exhibition Hall, Villa Leon, Nuernberg, Germany
- 2007 Pitanga Cultural Center, Auroville, India
Giechburg Art Castle, Schesslitz, Germany
- 2006 Pitanga Cultural Center, Auroville, India
MF-Design Exhibition Hall, Nuremberg, Germany
- 2005 Skalny Exhibition Hall, Karpacz, Poland
Zunfthaus Baden-Baden, Germany
- 2004 Bharat Nivas Art Gallery, Auroville, India
Meduse Art Center, Québec, Canada
- 2003 Brenner's Parkhotel, Baden-Baden, Germany
Art Center Est-Nord-Est, Quebec, Canada
Kolping Exhibition Hall, Frankfurt, Germany
Mediacenter, University Dresden, Germany
- 2001 Museum of Nature, Chemnitz, Germany
- 2000 French Cultural Center, Kumasi, Ghana
Dome of Berlin, Berlin, Germany
- 1999 Gänsemarkt-Passage Hamburg, Germany
- 1998 Museum Gellert, Hainichen, Germany
Schuster & Scheuermann Gallery, Berlin
Taschenberg Palace, Dresden, Germany
- 1997 German Cultural Center, Porto, Portugal
Museum of Female Arts, Wiesbaden, Germany, and many more



Group Exhibitions (selected)

- 2020 Dhaka Art Summit, Bangladesh
- 2019 Unity Pavilion Exhibition Hall, Auroville, India
- 2018 Citadines Centre d'Art, Auroville, India
Khajuraho Art Festival, Khajuraho, India
- 2017 Unity Pavilion Exhibition Hall, Auroville, India
- 2016 Apparao Art Galleries, New Delhi and Chennai, India
- 2015 Lalit Kala Akademi, Chennai, India
- 2014 Goa Chitra Museum, Goa, India
- 2012 Botanical Art Gallery, Thuengersheim, Germany
- 2011 Kala Kendra Art Gallery, Auroville, India
- 2010 Weaver's Studio Gallery, Kolkata, India
- 2009 Manufaktur Gallery, Berlin, Germany
- 2008 Women's Museum, Wiesbaden, Germany
- 2007 Gongju National Museum, Korea
Giechburg Art Castle, Schesslitz, Germany
- 2005 Aurodhan Art Gallery, Pondicherry, India
Kunstschaefer Gallery, Wiesbaden, Germany
- 2004 House for Fine Arts, Buttenheim, Germany
Women's Museum, Wiesbaden, Germany
- 2003 Fine Arts Exhibition Hall, Kempten, Germany
- 2002 Jakobi-Cathedral Döbeln, Germany
Gallery of the City of Bamberg, Germany
- 2001 Exhibition Hall, Saxonian Parliament, Dresden
Fine Arts Club, Plauen, Germany
- 2000 New Saxonian Gallery, Chemnitz, Germany
Gallery of the City of Bamberg, Germany
- 1999 "Villa Concordia", Bamberg, Germany
- 1998 Art Exhibition of the County of Hessen, Wiesbaden
County Museum of Baden, Karlsruhe, Germany
Centre of Arts, Bouxwiller, France
- 1997 Marilies-Hess-Foundation, Frankfurt, Germany
International Print Biennale, Olofström, Sweden
Townhall, Wiesbaden, Germany
- 1996 International Triennial of Prints, Cairo, Egypt
Museum of Industry, Chemnitz, Germany
Central County Library, Berlin, Germany
- 1995 International Community House, Kyoto, Japan
Boulder's Artist Gallery, Boulder, USA and many more



Work in Public Collections:

Collection of the German Federal Parliament

Collection of the Bavarian State Government

Collection of the State Government of Baden-Württemberg

Polish Federal Museum, Maidanek

Museum of Contemporary Graphic Arts, Cairo, Egypt

Collection of the German-Italian Society "Villa Vigoni", Italy

Max Mueller Bhavan (German Cultural Center), New Delhi, India

Museum for Female Arts, Wiesbaden, Germany

King-Albert-Museum, Chemnitz, Germany

Collection of the "New Saxonian Gallery"



Collection of "Engramme", Quebec, Canada

Collection of the Dresden University, Germany

Collection of the City of Wiesbaden, Germany

Collection of the County of Mittweida, Germany

Collection of the international township of Auroville, India

Collection of the Botanical Gardens, Tharandt, Germany

Frieder Burda Collection and various other private collections.

Rollable Pictures

Nelumbo nucifera Unikat 1, 2008 and
Philodendron Unikat 1, 2008

rollable pictures, maximum size: 194 x 98 cm

down:

Tacca chanieri 17, 2002



Polypodium Unikat 27, 2002
 and
Nymphaea rubra Unikat 1, 2005



www.birgittavolz.de

Catalogue download:

www.birgittavolz.de/katalog.htm



Dendrobium Uhikat 1, 2008
size: 30 x 21 cm
Oil colour on Chinese paper