

# Exchange between the Museums of Art and Natural History through the Interpretation of the Art Work or the Specimen

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# Collections in A Natural History Museum

- Biological Specimens
  - Plants, Insects, Fishes, Amphibians, Reptiles, Birds, Mammals
- Geological Specimens
  - Fossils (plants and animals), Rocks and Minerals





# Plant Specimens (Herbarium sheets)



*A. pictum*



*A. crataegifolium*



*A. rufinerve*



*A. sieboldianum*



*A. japonicum*

A variety of maple trees (*Acer*) in Japan



*Fagus crenata*



*Quercus serrata*



*Q. crispula*



*Q. myrsinaefolia*



*Q. glauca*

Members of Fagaceae (beech, Japanese oak, evergreen oak)

# What does a Botanist do in the Natural History Museum?

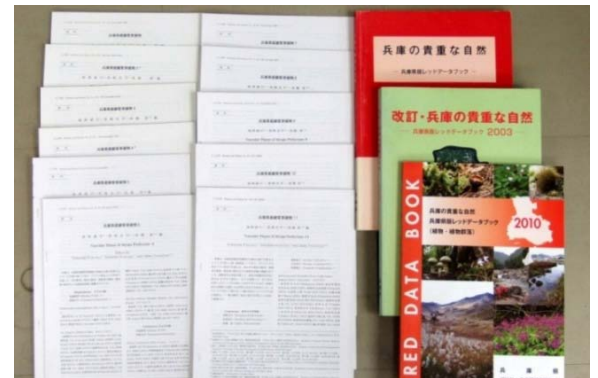
- Description of the actual condition of plant diversity
- Elucidation of a mechanism of plant diversity and evolution
- Education and public-awareness of the importance of plant diversity and the need for its conservation



Field observation for adult



Botanical illustration class for children



Local flora, Illustrated guide book, RDB

# Appreciation of Art Work

How does a visitor see the art work in the art museum?

Art Work = Creative Work

- Artist's mentality, mind, spirit, emotion, feeling
- expression
- artistic technique

Can we collaborate  
with the Art Museum ?



A Storage of Art Museum



Exhibition

# 2013 Collection 1: Colors of Life Portraying Plants

Theme: artistic expression of plants



*Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Art*

# Gallery Talk by A Botanist

I, as a botanist, walked around the art gallery and made some comments on the art-works used some plants for their subject matters.

(美術館で植物散歩)



# Behavior of A Botanist

Try to guess the plant name when he saw a plant in a painting

Try to see whether the presumed plant is correctly painted from its shape or color





# What ?



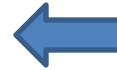
May --- Incomplete Seasons No. 3.  
by Yasukazu Tabuchi

Yasukazu Tabuchi is famous on the style of drawing with intellectual composition in a canvas and vivid colors.

# Hydrangea? Lilac?



*Hydrangea macrophylla* f. *macrophylla*  
(Saxifragaceae)



*Syringa vulgaris* (Oleaceae)



# Diversity in *Syringa vulgaris* (=Lilac)

Many cultivars of *Syringa vulgaris*



*Syringa vulgaris*  
(wild species)



'Sensation'



'Firmament'



'Primrose'



'Paul Thirion'



# Diversity of *Syringa* species



*S. vulgaris*



*S. amurensis*



*S. reticulata*



*S. velutina*



*S. microphylla*



*S. emodi*



*S. tomentella*



*S. josikaea*



*S. villosa*

Many species in genus *Syringa*

- different colors
- different shape of flowers



# Iron Molding and Flower



'Bloom' by Chu Enoki

Chu Enoki is known for the unique style of inspiring the life into iron

- Inorganic matter --- smooth and massive texture of iron
- Make me imagine a fresh and young flower just blooming



A bud of *Rafflesia*, just before bloom

# Fresh and Young Flowers



*Hydrangea macrophylla*



*Lotus corniculatus* var. *japonica*



*Canavalia lineata*



*Lilium japonicum*

# Bio-diversity

- All the living things are different from each other in population, species, individual, and genetic level
- Education and Public-awareness of biodiversity, plant diversity, is the important purpose for the curator studying botany in a natural history museum



Diversity of plant species



# People really want to know?

- Have not we forced our view on the visitor?
- We have to be conscious of the emotion or feeling of non-professional persons
- Need to reconsider our educational program, contents, and teaching materials



Interpretation in the field (a program of Hyogo Museum)

# Gallery talk of new style

- ◆ Hope for the curator of art to have an another gallery talk in natural history museum
- ◆ How does the curator of art deal with the natural things ?

It is profoundly interesting !



We have many kinds of material to be interpreted by curator of art museum