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Curious Companions: Fungi, Parasites and Carnivores

September 26, 2026 – January 31, 2027



Denver Botanic Gardens' newest exhibition, *Curious Companion: Fungi, Parasites and Carnivores*, is a collection of intricate botanical illustrations that highlight the unusual relationships between organisms, including parasites, carnivorous plants, lichens, fungi and more. From ghostly translucent, fungi-fueled flowers to symbiotic, lettuce-like lichens, *Curious Companions* invites the viewer to observe a vast range of peculiar interspecies connections.

"The world is built on a web of relationships. That's true for plants, fungi and lichens, too," says Katie Foster, assistant curator of exhibitions at Denver Botanic Gardens. "*Curious Companions* explores the often-overlooked dramas unfolding all around us, whether the struggle between an unlucky host and a parasite looking for its next meal or the mind-bending, category-defying partnerships seen in lichens."

The exhibition features 50 artworks by 46 artists from around the world, including the U.S., Canada, Brazil, Ireland, Japan, India, the United Kingdom, Indonesia and South Africa. All works are scientific and botanical illustrations that use a variety of media, including watercolor, ink, gouache paint, colored pencil and graphite.

Curios Companions is curated by the American Society of Botanical Artists, in partnership with the New York Botanical Garden, for the Fifth ASBA/NYBG Triennial. It will be on display in the Freyer – Newman Center's Ladd Family Gallery from September 26, 2026, to January 31, 2027, and is included with general admission.

Images: Karen Luglein, *Magic*, watercolor on illustration board, 2023; Mieko Ishikawa, *Nepenthes (Nepenthes lowii)*, watercolor, 2023; Christiane Fashek, *Spiraling 16x (Physcia aipolia, Ramalina americana, Ramalina complanata, Ramalina sinensis, Teloschistes chrysophthalmus, Teloschistes exilis, Quercus fusiformis, Candelariella vitellina)*, colored pencil and watercolor, 2022.

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Disfrute las exposiciones de las galerías en el edificio FNC con un guía. Los Jardines Botánicos de Denver es líder en exposiciones de arte que destacan escultura, pintura, ilustración botánica y más.

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About Denver Botanic Gardens: Green inside and out, Denver Botanic Gardens celebrates its 75th anniversary in 2026 and is considered one of the top botanical gardens in the United States and a pioneer in water conservation. Accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, and the American Public Gardens Association, the Gardens has a robust living plant collection, natural history collection and art collection along with temporary art exhibitions. The Gardens' Denver location features a 24-acre urban oasis in the heart of the city, offering unforgettable opportunities to flourish with unique garden experiences– as well as world-class exhibitions, special events, education and plant conservation research programs. Additional sites extend this experience throughout the Front Range: Denver Botanic Gardens Chatfield Farms is a 700-acre native plant refuge with an active farm in Jefferson County; Mount Goliath is a high-altitude trail and interpretive site on the Mount Blue Sky Scenic Byway. The Gardens also manages programming at Plains Conservation Center in Aurora. For more information, visit us online at www.botanicgardens.org