

# Margaret Anne Saul

Botanic Artist/Teacher

## **ARTIST'S STATEMENT & BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

### **ARTIST'S STATEMENT:**

All plants intrigue me though only certain types will initiate the creative activity that energizes the whole process – recording botanical detail through which I can discover further fascinating form, shape, pattern and color; composing the picture; applying media and rendering wonderful detail. I feel there is a particular need to create works that heighten awareness of native flora - no matter where in the world I live. My eye is especially drawn to rounded form, and finds great satisfaction in seeing harmony and contrast, aspects of light, fluidity of line and harmonious movement while the desire to seek the *how & why* also beckons. Such inquisitiveness leads to periods of discovery through observational drawing. The challenge continually presenting itself is not to allow the objectivity to destroy the art – nor for the art to cloud the truth that we seek through science.

Favoured Media: Watercolour and dry-colour pencils

### **ARTIST'S BIOGRAPHY:** (CV also available)

This specialized art form combines art and botany and both interests were nurtured from childhood in a family of artists and amateur naturalists who lived with the Australian “bush” at their back door. These interests continued throughout her four years at art school and further strengthened while a museum artist and on the full-time staff as the botanical illustrator for the Queensland Herbarium where she produced hundreds of fine illustrations for many botanical texts. A period as a freelance natural science illustrator followed before she found her present niche where she is viewed as an inspiring teacher and painter of works that are imbued with an artistic vitality and vibrancy – while maintaining attention to exquisite botanical detail.

Margaret established and then directed *The Margaret Saul School of Botanic Art* Brisbane, Australia established in 1997 - after having conducted botanical art classes at the Brisbane Botanic Gardens, Mt. Coot-tha since 1988. She closed the school at the end of the school year in December 2003 and instigated the formation of the *Botanical Artists Society of Queensland* that has continued an instructional role and boasts a substantial membership. Since moving to the USA in 2000, she has conducted master classes in Australia at Sydney, Katoomba and Brisbane and across the USA in - Arizona, Colorado, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, North Carolina, Virginia and Washington DC. Several of these were presented as part of the *Botanical Master Class* series, organized by Dr. Shirley Sherwood (UK) – owner of a prestigious collection of contemporary botanical art. As an artist in the Sherwood collection, Margaret has been represented in worldwide exhibitions including Australia, Japan, South Africa, UK and at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History in Washington DC. She is also represented in public and private collections in Australia, The Netherlands and USA and her paintings are reproduced in a number of art books (Refer to CV). She is the Director of the *Brookside Gardens School of Botanical Art & Illustration* in Bethesda, Maryland for which she has designed policy and curriculum.

Professional memberships include the *Guild of Natural Science Illustrators*, USA; conferred Life Membership to the *Botanical Art Society of Australia* and currently serves on the Board of the *American Society of Botanical Artists*: Co-chair, Education.