

Braida-Chiusano, Olivia Marie

b. New York, New York,

Address:

USA

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EDUCATION:

Graduate, Berkeley Business College, New York B.S., Business; Art & Writing, Empire State College, State University of New York

Graduate, Botanical Art & Illustration Certificate Program, New York Botanical Garden

Graduate, Institute for Children's Literature, West Redding, Conn.

CAREER:

Founder/President, Master Messenger, Inc., Nationwide Courier Systems, 1980–1993

Designer of advertising/marketing campaigns and promotional literature, Master Messenger, Inc., White Plains, N.Y.. 1980–1993

Architectural Interior Designs for Operations, Master Messenger, Inc., White Plains, N.Y., 1985

Instructor, botanical drawing or watercolor workshops, OM Studio 101, White Plains, N.Y., 1998–2000; Wainwright House, Rye, N.Y., 1998; OM Art Studio Soho, New York, N.Y., 1998; OM Art Studio 64, New York, N.Y., 1998–; Ringling School of Art and Design, Sarasota, Fla., 1998–2001; New York Botanical Garden, 1998–2001; Green Mountain College, Poultney, Vt., 1998; Long Ridge Studio, Stamford, Conn., 1999; Gosmore Bury Studio, Hitchin, England, 1999; Rue du Fauburg Saint-Honoré, Paris, France, 2000; OM Art Sunnyside Studio, Sarasota, Fla., 2002–; Isabel O'Neil Studio Workshop, New York, N.Y., 2003; Mackinac Art Council, Mackinac Island, Mich., 2004

Designed and trademarked Perplexi®—The Artist's Portable Perspective Tool, 1998

Author of Ten Steps—A Course in Botanical Art, vols. 1–10, 2000–2003

Editorial, book design, and commissioned artwork for Kirpal Singh, His Grace Lives On, 2001–2002

Founder, designer, coordinator and instructor, Botanical Art & Illustration Certificate Program, Ringling School of Art and Design, School of Continuing Studies and Special Programs, Sarasota, Fla., 2002–

MEMBERSHIP:

American Society of Botanical Artists Guild of Natural Science Illustrators Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators Reilly League of Artists Florida Watercolor Society

MEDIA

Watercolor, graphite, pen-and-ink, pastel, colored pencil

GROUP EXHIBITION(s):

Alumni Exhibit, New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, N.Y., 1995

The Annual Rose Exhibit, New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, N.Y., 1996, 1997

Women's Club of White Plains Annual Art Exhibition, White Plains, N.Y., 1997, 1998, 2001

Annual Alumni Art Show, Empire State College, State University of New York, 1997

Interpretations of Botanical Art, Muscoot Farms, Somers, N.Y., 1997

15th Annual Juried Art Exhibition, Fine Arts Museum of Long Island, Hempstead, N.Y., 1997

25th Anniversary Art Show, State University of New York, Hartsdale, N.Y., 1998

Say It with Flowers, Carroll-Condit Gallery, White Plains, N.Y., 1998

37th and 38th Annual Armonk Outdoor Art Show, Armonk, N.Y., 1998, 1999

Focus on Nature V and VI, New York State Museum, Albany, N.Y., 1998, 2000

Nature, Naturally, Guild of Natural Science Illustrators, Elmsford, N.Y., 1998

Renditions of Nature: Traditional to Abstract, Ossining Art Council, Ossining, N.Y., 1999

Illustrations of Nature, Northern Westchester Center for the Arts, Mt. Kisco, N.Y., 1999

Trees and Shrubs, Highstead Arboretum, Redding, Conn., 1999 Open Studios Event, Westchester Arts Council, White Plains, N.Y., 1999

A Garden of Images: Artists Seeing Nature, Rye Arts Center, Rye, N.Y., 2000

Westchester: A Tribute to the Arts, Krasdale Foods, White Plains, N.Y., 2000

Botanical Art Exhibition, Gingertree Fine Arts, Stamford, Conn., 2000

Botanical Drawings & Watercolors, Noel Fine Art, Bronxville, N.Y., 2000

18th Annual Maplebrook Art Show, Rossman Hall, Amenia, N.Y., 2001

Juried Spring Exhibition, Sarasota Art Center, Sarasota, Fla., 2002

Faculty Exhibition, Ringling School of Art and Design, Sarasota, Fla., 2003

ONE-PERSON EXHIBITION(s):

- The Lure of the Garden, New Canaan Nature Center, New Canaan, Conn., 2000
- Botanical Paintings of Casa Guayacán, Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, 2002
- The Botanical Art of O. M. Braida, Showcase, Collector's Gallery, Venice, Fla., 2002
- Botanical Paintings of O. M. Braida, Tamarack Galleries, Naples, Fla., 2003
- The Botanical Art of O. M. Braida: From Fieldwork to Artworks, Garden Club of America, Marie Selby Gardens, Sarasota, Fla., 2004

Honor(s)/Award(s):

- Business of the Year Award, Small Business Administration and the Westchester City Chamber of Congress, 1986–1991
- Women Entrepreneur of the Year, Small Business Administration and the Westchester Association of Women Owned Businesses, 1989
- Third Prize: Watercolor, 1997; First Prize: Watercolor, 1998; Second Prize: Watercolor, 2001; First Prize: Drawing, Women's Club of White Plains Annual Art Exhibition, 2001
- First Prize: Overall, 15th Annual Juried Art Exhibition, 1997 One of Eight Selected for Special Tribute to the Arts, Krasdale Gallery, White Plains, N.Y., 1999

Collections:

- The Punta Cana Foundation, Punta Cana, Dominican Republic
- The Cornell Biodiversity Laboratory Conference Center, Punta Cana, Dominican Republic
- Pine Shores Presbyterian Church, Sarasota, Fla. Numerous private collections

COMMISSIONS

- Paintings of Casa Guayacán, a series of twelve oversize botanical watercolor paintings of plants indigenous to Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, Theodore W. Kheel and the Punta Cana Foundation, 2000–2002
- Watercolor for Kirpal Singh, His Grace Lives On, Ruhani Satsong Publishers, Irvine, Calif., 2001–2002
- Research boards of botanical subjects at Casa Guayacán, a series of study boards on the plants of the Dominican Republic, The Cornell Biodiversity Laboratory Conference Center, Punta Cana, Dominican Republic
- Orchidaceae Paradiso, a series of paintings for both species and intergenetic orchids for S. Pratt, Greenwich, Conn., 2003–2004
- Flora Botanica Collection, a series of paintings from which original fine jewelry is being designed, Vanessa Fine Jewelry, Sarasota, Fla., 2003–2005

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Chang, S. A. May 1998. Carroll-Condit Gallery celebrates Mother's Day with say it with flowers. White Plains Watch
- Clark, N. 2002. Ringling School of Art and Design launches botanical art program. Bot. Artist 24.
- Graff, S. and E. Plum. April 1998. Messenger mogul shifts career to art. Women's News.
- Lombardi, D. D. February 2000. [Review of Krasdale Gallery exhibition.] New York Times.
- McLaughlin, T. November 2002. The art of botanical painting. Attitudes Magazine. P. 13.
- Morgan Gray, J. December 2002. The art of botanicals, nature's enduring beauty. Woman's Day Gardening & Outdoor Living. P. 94.
- Ormond, J. July 1999. From flowers to forensics: The vocational side of art. Artnews.
- Smith, S. July/August 1999. White Plains artists speak out. White Plains Watch.
- Van Parys, W. March 2002. The lure of the garden. New Canaan News.

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Magnolia grandiflora 'Little Gem' #2 2003
Watercolor 58 x 44.5 cm
Hunt Institute collection