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# Botanical Art Fair

Press Release  
24 MARCH 2026



Image: Annie Trevorah, *Cacturon*, 2024.

**ROSA  
Botanical Art Fair  
1-4 May 2026  
West Dean, Chichester**

## **Flora in Art + Design**

The launch of ROSA Botanical Art Fair marks an ambitious evolution in the botanical genre by placing exciting Modern and contemporary works in dialogue with traditional studies of flora.

**May Bank Holiday weekend: Botanical Art + Design Fair, Curated  
Exhibitions, Sculpture Garden, Programme of Events**

[botanicalartfair.co.uk](https://botanicalartfair.co.uk)

Set in West Dean's spectacular 4000 acre estate, ROSA Botanical Art Fair is set to take visitors on an artistic voyage through the botanical world this May Bank Holiday weekend. Welcoming leading artists and galleries from across the UK, the Fair focuses on today's visual interpretations of nature, and reveals rare historic and 20th-century flora-inspired works of art.

The event comprises a stunning **Art + Design Fair** installed on the front lawn, a series of **curated exhibitions** inside West Dean House, a **sculpture garden**, and a diverse **programme of events**.



Image: Laura Smith, *They Glide*, 2025. Oil on linen. Courtesy 155A Gallery

Works by pioneering 20th-century artists, including **Paul Nash**, **Prunella Clough** and **Tadek Beutlich**, together with bold contemporary art, encompassing digital, sculpture, painting, ceramics, textiles and jewellery, reveal how artists explore a broad botanical spectrum to reimagine our relationship with the natural world. From the serene majesty of trees, to the intricate textures of moss and magical mycelial networks, ROSA Botanical Art Fair reflects a vibrant cultural shift toward nature-inspired art that serves as a powerful corrective to our screen-saturated era.

Presented by ROSA (Review of Sussex Arts magazine), the Fair is directed by Jessica Wood who has over 20 years' experience working on national and Sussex fairs such as British Art Fair, MADE Brighton, MADE London, Sluice Art Fair and Brighton Art Fair, as well as UK City of Culture. ROSA is a media partner with London Art Fair.



Image: *Treescape 2*, photograph by Tom Lee

A complimentary programme of events includes: inspiring art and craft taster sessions with West Dean tutors, performances, talks and tours.

The Fair is organised in partnership with West Dean, and supported by a founding committee including Newlands House Gallery, Ottocento Fine Art Dealers, Emma Mason British Prints, Natasha O’Kane Sussex Contemporary Art, and The Society of Botanical Artists.



Image: Kate Montgomery, *Blue Interior*. Courtesy Natasha O’Kane Sussex Contemporary Art

Professor Anna Gough-Yates, CEO of the Edward James Foundation and Principal of West Dean College, said: *“We are thrilled to partner with ROSA on the Botanical Art Fair 2026. As a leading centre for education and practice in the arts, design, conservation and horticulture, we look forward to welcoming visitors, makers and artists to our Sussex Campus to be inspired, and share in this vibrant celebration of botanical art.”*

### **Art + Design Fair**

The stands in the Art + Design Fair are taken by a mixture of galleries, artists and designers with artworks spanning painting, photography, textiles, prints, ceramics, jewellery, sculpture and digital.

Exhibitors range from top London galleries including Austin Desmond Fine Art and Chris Beetles Gallery, leading Sussex galleries including Ottocento Fine Art Dealers and Natasha O’Kane Sussex Contemporary Art; and vetted artists and designers from across the UK. The full list of exhibitors can be found on the website: [botanicalartfair.co.uk](http://botanicalartfair.co.uk)



Image: Paul Nash (1889-1946) Black Poplar Pond, 1921. Courtesy Austin / Desmond Fine Art

Chichester's Pallant House Community Programme is running a series of workshops led by artist Helen Field, culminating in a spectacular installation to be displayed at the Fair.

### **Exhibitions inside West Dean House:**

#### **Society of Botanical Artists**

*The Estate Boardroom*

West Dean's Estate Boardroom will feature an exhibition of work by members of the Society of Botanical Artists. The exhibition honours the highly specialist field of botanical illustration, with scientific and representational studies of plants in a variety of mediums.



Image: *Hippeastrum* bud 'Clown' by Claire K Ward PSBA

## **Annie Trevorah: Rhythm**

### *The Music Room*

A solo exhibition by Royal Society of Sculptors member Annie Trevorah. Referencing themes of bio-morphism and ecofeminism, Trevorah's contemporary works will demonstrate a visionary contrast to traditional botanical art.

## **Craft Banquet**

### *The Old Dining Room*

Curated by Dr Loucia Manopolou, Director, Newlands House Gallery

The historic banquetting table becomes a focal point where works trace connections between making, nature and the rhythms of the seasons. The display celebrates the dining room as a space where beauty, function and meaning

intertwine.

*“The installation brings together a range of craft practices, including ceramics, textiles, glass, and print. Each work draws on flowers or material intelligence rooted in the natural world, carrying the essence of growth, care and imagination. Presented in the dining room, the works blur the boundaries between use, display, and exhibition, inviting reflection on craft and its role in moments of gathering, conversation, and exchange.”* Dr Loucia Manopolou

## **Flora Mythica**

*The Old Library*

A group exhibition curated by ROSA Magazine. Works include a spectacular centrepiece by sculptor [Abigail Norris](#), sculptures by [John Hitchens](#), pieces by textile artists [Tadek Beutlich](#) (1922-2011) and [Carola van Dyke](#), and a film and drawing installation by multi-disciplinary artist [Judith Alder](#).

Image: Carola van Dyke, *Bolted*, 2025. Textile, 110x40x27cm



## **The Sculpture Garden and Floral Art**

### *The Spring Gardens*

ROSA Botanical Art Fair will extend into West Dean's award-winning gardens with a series of dramatic horticultural sculptures. Artists include Julian Wild, Will Spankie, Amanda Sumpter and Annie Trevorah, along with works donated by Cass Sculpture Park. The sculptures will be for sale and will be installed for an extended period until 22 May. Floral Artist, Rachel Grimes is creating site-specific pieces for the fair. Visitors will have full access to the gardens during the Fair with a ROSA Botanical Art Fair ticket.



Image: Amanda Sumpter, 'Strange Fruit 01', 2023, Caen Limestone with Welsh slate and Oak plinth (Photo credit Saltwick media)

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## **Notes to Editors**

### About ROSA

Review of Sussex Arts (ROSA) is a Community Interest Company (CIC) based in Lewes, East Sussex that serves as the voice of Sussex's contemporary arts and culture scene. Founded in 2022, ROSA publishes a quarterly arts and culture magazine. In spring 2025, ROSA launched Sussex Craft Week, a region-wide celebration of excellence in craft which returns this June. [rosamagazine.co.uk](http://rosamagazine.co.uk)

### About West Dean

West Dean has been at the vanguard of championing arts and crafts since its inception in 1971. The college was founded by the passionate and eccentric patron of the arts, Edward James, who had a singular vision: to preserve traditional techniques of craftsmanship which he feared would be lost in the wake of World War II, and a vision to foster creativity and invest in burgeoning artists and makers. Over fifty years later, this beautiful estate nestled in the South Downs remains a world-leading centre for arts, crafts and conservation. West Dean now provides a variety of cutting-edge degree and diploma programmes, across campuses in London and Sussex, designed to equip students to excel in a variety of industries, alongside 800 creative short courses spanning a plethora of disciplines.

West Dean Gardens is one of the greatest restored gardens open to the public today. Visitors can explore a wide range of historic features on a gentle walk around the grounds. From surreal trees to the restored walled garden, West Dean Gardens proudly presents its rich creative and social heritage. [westdean.ac.uk](http://westdean.ac.uk)

### Charity Partner: Pallant House Gallery Community Programme

Founded in 2002, Pallant House Gallery Community Programme supports over 200 local people each year through inclusive creative workshops, exhibitions and artist-led opportunities. With many joining with disabilities or mental health support needs, the Programme places creativity at its heart - focusing on individuals as artists rather than labels. It provides a safe, accessible and welcoming environment where participants can connect with art, the Gallery and one another.

For more than 20 years, it has grown into a vibrant, supportive community that enables people who might otherwise face barriers to cultural participation to lead creative lives. Participants consistently report increased wellbeing, new skills, confidence and a stronger sense of belonging, reflecting the Gallery's commitment to inclusion and meaningful engagement.

Through a series of six workshops during February-April 2026, led by artist Helen Friend, participants are creating two spectacular floral paper installations to be displayed in the Art + Design Fair Marquee during the ROSA Botanical Art Fair.

#### Environmental Partner: Forests Without Frontiers (FWF)

Forests Without Frontiers (FWF) is a Brighton-based non-profit organisation dedicated to restoring and protecting nature across Sussex, the wider UK and Europe for future generations. With deep roots in Sussex, FWF delivers impactful environmental restoration projects that revitalise local landscapes, strengthen community connection to nature, and foster long-term ecological resilience. By harnessing the power of music and the arts, FWF engages diverse audiences, inspiring collective action and meaningful stewardship of the natural environment. Further information can be found at [forestswithoutfrontiers.org](https://forestswithoutfrontiers.org).

#### Sponsor: Chalk Cliff Trust

ROSA Botanical Art Fair is grateful for sponsorship from Chalk Cliff Trust. [chalkclifftrust.org](https://chalkclifftrust.org)

#### ROSA Botanical Art Fair

Flora in Art + Design

Address: West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0QZ [Google Maps](#)

Dates: 1-4 May 2026

Press Preview: 1 May 9am-12noon with talks and tours

Open: Daily 10am-5pm

Website: [botanicalartfair.co.uk](https://botanicalartfair.co.uk)

Instagram: [@botanical.artfair](#)

Email: [office@rosamagazine.co.uk](mailto:office@rosamagazine.co.uk)

West Dean telephone: +44 (0)1243 818300

Tickets: [here](#)

[Sign up to the Newsletter](#) for updates

Price: £13.75 + booking fee (includes access to West Dean Gardens), children 16 and under free.

Car Parking: Free, accessed via the West Dean Gardens entrance.

Catering: A range of delicious lunches and refreshments will be available at West Dean's restaurant The Gardens Kitchen. There will also be a fully-licensed bar and a pop-up Vintage Tea Tent as part of the Fair.

Access: West Dean Gardens are partially accessible. Accessible accommodation available. The Estate house has wheelchair access but please book ahead - [meetings@westdean.ac.uk](mailto:meetings@westdean.ac.uk)

Dogs: Welcome to the gardens on short leads. Only assistance dogs are allowed inside West Dean House.

### Events Programme

There will be a programme of events as part of the fair, to be released in April 2026.

Press contact: Holly Finch, [holly@artsmediacontacts.co.uk](mailto:holly@artsmediacontacts.co.uk)

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Moncrieff-Bray