



## Guidelines when Applying for Full Membership with Exhibiting Rights

As an organisation we want to encourage as many people as possible to join and enjoy botanical art. We also need to ensure that we exhibit work of a uniformly excellent standard. Many artists come to botanical art through a variety of channels, so their understanding of the standards can vary a lot.

If you are unsure of where you sit in relation to the Full Membership category, we would be very happy to look at your work and advise you of where your work sits in relation to the established guidelines - see below. It may be that your work already adheres to these guidelines or there may be areas of technique or botanical correctness which would have to be addressed for you to receive Full Membership to the Society.

In some cases, we may have access to a mentor relevant to your medium who could talk you through any issues prior to application, and if there were potential concerns might make recommendations on key areas for developments.

Before applying for Full Membership please check your work shows the following:

1. **LINE** - ensure that the outline of the drawing is accurate
2. **FORM** - the perspective and the three-dimensionality of your subject is shown
3. **TONE** - a full range of light and dark tonal values should be used to create a three-dimensional image e.g., highlights and dark areas on glossy leaves have enough contrast to suggest a shiny surface on the leaf
4. **COLOUR** - should be as accurate as possible - ideally you have checked the colours against a specimen rather than relying on the internet or photos
5. **COMPOSITION** - how the study sits on the page. A good composition will have a focal point and lead the eye through picture
6. **BOTANICAL ACCURACY** - this is paramount. By showing the correct number of stamens, leaf axils, venation of leaves and petals etc. your work will classify as botanical art rather than floral art. Your work should accurately portray your plant down to the species of plant, e.g., your image of Kowhai will show which *Sophora* species it is. Work should be accurately labelled with botanical name, common name and, if appropriate, Māori name
7. **GOOD TECHNIQUE** and handling of your chosen medium, such as smooth washes of colour if painting or smooth blending if using colour pencil. Careful attention should be paid to details, particularly crisp, clean edges

**8. PRESENTATION** – of clean work on an appropriate substrate - paper, vellum, canvas etc. If your work is to be entered into Society exhibitions, it needs to be on an archival substrate and when framed, mat, backing board and tape are also archival

## **9. DIGITAL IMAGES**

When you apply for Full Membership, it is to your best interest to submit good quality digital images as these are what we use to assess your work. Label your files with your name, the plant name (Botanical, Common and Māori names if appropriate) and size of image unframed

If you have any questions please contact us, as we are keen to help make this process as transparent as possible.

**If you work in 3D please contact the Society directly for guidance –  
membership.basnzinc@gmail.com**