

ANNA LAURENT

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WRITING / PRODUCING

THE BOTANICAL WALL CHART: ART FROM THE GOLDEN AGE OF SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY

224 pages, 2016. University of Chicago Press (US); Octopus Press, (UK)

Researched and wrote a book about Victorian-era educational botanical wall charts. Book includes over 200 illustrations discovered in Berlin, Prague, Harvard, and an unprecedented compilation of biographies, botany, and archival research. Organized by plant family, the chapters compare depictions of similar species by different illustrators and include long-form captions discussing the botany of each chart, and how these scientific documents were shaped by their respective political, scientific, and cultural landscapes. Chapters are enhanced with primary sources including the author's own text, nineteenth-century advertisements, and correspondences between seminal scientists including Darwin. Since publication to present, have presented slideshow lectures about the book at institutions including at University of California Botanical Garden at Berkeley (US, January 2017), and the Royal Horticultural Society Garden at Wisley (UK, November 2016)

GARDEN DESIGN MAGAZINE Contributing editor, 2011-2014

Wrote two weekly columns: 'Art & Botany' and 'Botanic Notables'. Topics included plants with remarkable morphological adaptations, biographies of naturalists, botanic artists throughout history, and contemporary science journalism. Researched, wrote, interviewed, sourced images. Also produced multimedia stories about botanic gardens, and long-form articles for the print magazine

LAUREN GREENFIELD PRODUCTIONS Producer and writer, 2008-2011

Documentary writer & producer for non-fiction stories, proposals, grants for documentary funding (awards include Sundance, Cinereach, IFP); liaison with editors to develop content for publications including The New York Times Magazine. Editorial producer for all phases of production, including story research and interviews; field producer for domestic and international stories, including two-week shoot in Dubai

THE IRAQI SEED PROJECT Producer and photographer, 2010-2012

Co-produced multimedia project about agriculture in the modern-day Fertile Crescent; wrote grants; documented the representation of plants, both naturally & culturally, in Iraqi Kurdistan, to explore the region's diminished botanic heritage, as well as its use of flora as symbols of political regeneration. Wrote "Recovering a Garden of Paradise", a long-form article about Kurdistan's challenges re-engaging agriculture, and a grass-roots movement to save seeds and cultivate endangered species

FREELANCE

Clients & publications include: The New York Times (captions for photographs by Lauren Greenfield), Fast Company magazine, Das magazine, Zeit magazine, Print magazine (column of typeface reviews). Coca-Cola, design and branding firms,

PHOTOGRAPHY

DISPERSAL 2010-present

Award-winning series of botanic portraiture (and written profiles) that explore the form & function of seeds & fruits, exploring specimens as abstract sculpture as well as the subjects of a scientific inquiry into symbiotic relationships & dispersal mechanisms. Collected at collaborating gardens and arboreta, including Harvard's Arnold Arboretum, and UC Berkeley Botanical Garden. Currently working with scientists at Royal Botanic Garden Kew, London to select specimens of rare & endangered species from the Herbarium archives, for a series promoting conservation and Kew's history

AWARDS

2017 Royal Photographic Society: International Garden Photographer of the Year, Bronze medal, Portfolio

2017 Royal Horticultural Society: Chelsea Flower Show, Silver-Gilt medal, Portfolio

PUBLISHED

Harvard Magazine, (feature interview) "The Sorcery of Seed Pods" // January 2014 issue

Arnoldia: the Arnold Arboretum at Harvard, (written & photographic work) "Dispersal" // Volume 71 no. 2. Autumn 2013

Hymn, (written & photographic work) Laboratory Arts Collective, "Fear" // Spring 2014

Evolve, Journal of The Ecology Center, (written & photographic work) "Seed Pods as Shelter" // Issue 09 Spring 2014

EXHIBITED

Royal Horticultural Society Chelsea Flower Show // 22-27 May 2017

One of 10 photographers selected to exhibit a portfolio of work in the Grand Pavilion

The Fall, Fitzrovia Gallery, London // 10-28 May 2017

Group show. 54 works exhibited; programme included three artist/author lectures

Kew Royal Botanic Garden, London // 2017

Group show of International Garden Photographer of the Year winners; six prints from the Dispersal series will travel internationally in an exhibition introduced at RBG Kew London, to venues including de Hortus Botanicus (Amsterdam), Cambridge University Botanic Garden (UK), Parques de Sintra (Lisbon), The Gardens of Trauttmansdorff Castle (Italy), and The New York Botanical Garden (New York)

Art as Parody // The Exhibitionist Hotel, London May 2017

Berkeley Botanical Garden at Berkeley University // January—February 2017

Solo show. 40 photographs of specimens collected at Berkeley Botanical Garden

Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University // October 2013—January 2014

Solo show. 33 photograph of specimens collected at Arnold Arboretum

Natural History Museum Los Angeles // 2013—2023

Group show. Commissioned photographs of non-native fruits upon which urban parrots forage, for 'Nature Labs', a permanent exhibit about biodiversity in L.A.

SELECTED REVIEWS

Michael Dosmann, Curator of Living Collections, Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University:

"In her show 'Dispersal', Laurent reminds us that plants do move. Her photographs illustrate with exquisite beauty & botanical panache that these seemingly sessile organisms disperse in fantastic ways. This can only be accomplished [by] the scholar-artist, and Laurent is clearly both."

Kevin Hartnett, The Boston Globe: "Laurent's images testify to the many ingenious ways that life propagates itself."

Gwen Stauffer, director of Lotusland Garden, CA, USA: "The Robert Mapplethorpe of seed pods."

LECTURES

University of California Berkeley School of Environmental Design (invited by Ronald Rael, Associate Professor of Architecture), January 23, 2017; University of California Botanical Garden at Berkeley, Berkeley, CA. USA, January 18, 2017; Westchester Garden Club, Westchester, CT. USA, October 12, 2016; Hartford Garden Club, West Granby, CT. USA, October 7, 2016; Arnold Arboretum at Harvard University, Boston, MA, USA. October 28, 2013

OTHER WORK

PBS / NOVA / 2004-2008

Interactive designer for NOVA, an award-winning science documentary program on PBS; collaborated with producers & writers to develop & design immersive non-fiction content to accompany the television broadcasts. Topics included a range of subjects including historic developments and contemporary journalism

PHOTOGRAPHY REPRESENTATION

Apollinaire Fine Arts, London, UK // www.apollinaire-arts.com, Jonathan Dawid, director, jonathan@apollinaire-arts.com

BOOK PROMOTIONS & PUBLICITY

University of Chicago Press, Chicago, Illinois, USA // Kristen Raddatz, kraddatz@uchicago.edu

Octopus Press, London, UK // Matthew Grindon, Matthew.Grindon@octopusbooks.co.uk

ANNA LAURENT MALSBERGER

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BIOGRAPHY



Anna Laurent is an award-winning flora-focused author and photographer. Her first book, 'Botanical Art from the Golden Age of Scientific Discovery', an historic survey of educational botanical charts from the late nineteenth-century, was published by University of Chicago Press (US), and Octopus (UK) in 2016. With illustrations & research compiled from international archives including in Prague, Berlin, NYC, and Cambridge, the book is an unprecedented compilation of biographies, primary source documentation, and botanical writing. The book has been recommended by academics for inclusion in university curricula, while remaining accessible to horticulturalists, historians, artists, and any curious reader. She has lectured about the book at galleries and exhibitions world-wide.

Photographs from her 'Dispersal' series have exhibited internationally including at Harvard University, University of California Botanical Garden at Berkeley, London, Amsterdam, Italy, Gibraltar, Sydney, New York City and are in the permanent collection of the Los Angeles Natural History Museum. Representing an archive of over 200 species, the project invites viewers to consider how a plant's native ecology — including climate, adaptive pressures, and companion organisms — creates a visual dialogue from which its fruits evolve. In its final form, the 'Dispersal' project includes a written profile that explains how the textures, colors, and weights of the seed and its vessel have adapted to assist the plant's propagation, by both protecting its seeds from predators, and harnessing an appropriate dispersal mechanism. In 2017 she was awarded a silver-gilt medal from the Royal Horticultural Society for an exhibition at Chelsea Flower Show, and the bronze medal from IGPTY10, an annual international photography competition sponsored by the Royal Photographic Society and the Royal Botanic Garden at Kew. Six prints from the 'Dispersal' series will accompany an exhibition that will travel internationally. Laurent's current projects include a book of images and written profiles from the project, as well as a collaboration with the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, London, for a new project focusing on conservation and endangered species.

Born in Boston, USA, Laurent studied at Harvard University and Massachusetts College of Art. She currently lives in London.