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UBC exhibition celebrates Herbarium's 100th anniversary

Beaty Biodiversity Museum
2212 Main Mall
Vancouver B.C. Canada V6T 1Z4
beatymuseum.ubc.ca

Vancouver, BC – A new feature exhibition at the Beaty Biodiversity Museum celebrates the 100th anniversary of the museum's Herbarium with pieces of art that emulate pressed plants from the collection. The exhibit, *From Meadows Woodlands Far and Near*, features the delicate watercolours and striking woodcuts of artist Brigitte Potter-Mael and will be on display from March 10 to September 4.

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The plants featured in Potter-Mael's art are from the landscapes of Lone Valley, Germany and British Columbia. Born in Germany, Potter-Mael emigrated to Canada in 1977 and brought with her a fascination with plants.

"I had never received any formal training in illustrating plants," Potter-Mael explains, "nor had I studied botany. Plants and their diversity *in situ*, as well as the persons looking after them, became my official teachers."

One of these teachers is Linda Jennings, Assistant Curator of Vascular Plants & Algae, at the Beaty Biodiversity Museum. This year marks the 100th anniversary of UBC's Herbarium, which became part of the newly created Beaty Biodiversity Museum in 2010. The timing of this exhibition is not coincidental.

"We are marking our centennial, by celebrating the unique plants in our province, and emphasizing the need for better protection of their 'at risk' habitats," says Jennings. "We are exhibiting just a few examples of the rare and endemic plants of British Columbia, as the list of endangered plants over the past 100 years is ever growing."

One of the key works is a sound piece, *Proverbial Botany*, exploring the relationship between plants and people.

贈人玫瑰, 手留余香

zeng ren mei gui, shou liu yu xiang

If you give roses to others, your hands have a nice smell.

This collaboration between Potter-Mael and Andreas Kahre presents cultural colloquialisms involving plants. A video, created by Derek Tan, accompanies the work.

A catalogue featuring Potter-Mael's art alongside essays by artists and scientists is available at the museum's gift shop.

Press along with the public, are invited to the opening of the exhibition on Wednesday March 9th. Doors open at 6:30pm with speeches from the museum and artist at 7:00pm followed by a special performance of a vocal piece developed for this exhibition by Cathy Fern Lewis. Enjoy appetizers and a cash bar while being among the first to explore the exhibition.

NB: To arrange a preview of the exhibit at another time, contact Mairin Kerr 604 352 9993 mairin.kerr@ubc.ca.



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Programs will be running throughout the duration of the exhibition including a talk by Dr. Herman Muhle about the dangers of alien plants, an artist talk by Potter-Mael, and a family art workshop. [More information about programs.](#)

For more information on *From Meadows Woodlands Far and Near* please visit beatymuseum.ubc.ca/from-meadows-woodlands-far-and-near/

[Download images.](#)

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About Brigitte Potter-Mael

Brigitte Potter-Mael was born in Germany and immigrated to Canada in 1977. She studied art at Concordia University and graduated with a BFA in drawing and printmaking. The influence of botany on her art began while she was an artist in residence at the Banff Centre.

Potter-Mael has exhibited her art around the world including a number of solo exhibitions. Some highlights include *Portrait of Myself: object of curiosity*, *Word-Weavings*, and *Lone Valley Herbarium*.

www.brigitte-potter-mael.com

www.brigittepottermael.com/beaty/

About the Beaty Biodiversity Museum

The Beaty Biodiversity Museum is at 2212 Main Mall on the University of British Columbia campus. Dubbed the “Best Collection of Weird Things in Drawers,” this natural history museum exhibits more than 2 million specimens divided among six collections: the Cowan Tetrapod Collection, The Herbarium, the Spencer Entomological Collection, the Fish Collection, the Marine Invertebrate Collection and the Fossil Collection. The Museum is home to Canada's largest blue whale skeleton, which is suspended in the two-story glass atrium.

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