



Museums Alaska - Art Acquisition Fund 2019 Round 1
University of Alaska Museum of the North (University of Alaska
Fairbanks)
Application #AAF2019R10040
Primary Contact: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]

Document Generated: Thursday, March 28th 2019, 11:18 am

Artwork To Be Purchased (Information)

Artist Information

Artist Name

Karen Stomberg

Artist Address

[REDACTED]

Artist Email Address

[REDACTED]

Artist Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Artwork Information

Title of Artwork

Collected Treasures: Six Alaska Wildflowers

Medium

Colored pencil on paper

Date Completed

(If only year is known, enter December 31.)

2018-1-1

Dimensions

18 each measuring 16" high by 11" wide

Artwork to be Purchased From

the artist

Price of Artwork

\$9,000

Funding Request

(Provide the dollar amount of your request. You may apply for the full price of the artwork. If the full price of the artwork exceeds the allotted amount [\$35,000 per institution per year], you must provide a detailed fundraising plan and demonstrate that additional funds are secured or in reserves.)

\$9,000

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Artwork To Be Purchased (Digital File)



Title: 01 OF 18
BUNCHBERRY CORNUS
CANDADENSIS
(HARRIMAN)
Artist 1: Karen Stomberg
Dimensions: 16 x 11

Title: 18 PIECES
COMPILED
Completed: 0
Published: 0
Publisher:

[UAMN 18 Artworks.pdf](#)

[01 of 18 Bunchberry
Cornus canadensis
\(Harriman\)](#)



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Narrative

RATIONALE: Please describe how this particular artwork meets the collecting goals of the museum as shown in its collection policy and its collecting plan. Applicant should address such points as the significance of the artist, the quality of the work, the subject, the medium, and the style.

Please carefully review the current guidelines, including footnotes.

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Describe the artwork: What is it made of, how was it made, what story does it tell, when was it made, has it been shown, where will it be purchased? Clearly explain the artistic merit of the artwork.

(5000 characters max)

Karen Stomberg first became inspired to create *Collected Treasures: Six Alaska Wildflowers* in 2015 when she visited the Herbarium at the University of Alaska Museum of the North (UAMN). Stomberg was struck by the beauty of the subtle color of the dried botanical specimens and began to research the stories behind why they were collected and preserved. In 2016 Stomberg developed the concept of drawing six species of Alaska wildflowers in three sets, two from historic collections and one from living specimens. With the support of a 2017 Rasmuson Individual Artist Award Stomberg spent two years researching and drawing three botanical specimens from each of the six Alaska wildflower species- one from the samples collected by botanists on the 1899 Harriman Expedition that are now at the Smithsonian Herbarium in D.C., one from the Herbarium collection at UAMN, and one that she collected in Fairbanks in 2018. Each specimen is lovingly rendered in colored pencil on a sheet of 11" x 16" paper. Stomberg's attention to detail is extraordinary. She made color keys to make sure the finished drawings were as accurate as possible, and the herbarium stamps and small pieces of tape that hold the specimen to the paper are faithfully represented.

Stomberg wrote a 40-page book, also titled *Collected Treasures*, where she included insights from her researched and correspondence with many of the original collectors. Stomberg wrote text to accompany each drawing, providing context about the circumstances of the collection or poetic and personal insights about the species. "These six native wildflowers are visual touchstones for many of us in the north. They are tenacious, resilient, and quick to reclaim the land after manmade or natural disruptions" Karen writes in the introduction to her book. The book features reproductions of the drawings and quotes from the collecting scientists as well as a poem by Susan Campbell and an essay by Frank Soos. Kes Woodward describes the volume as a "paean of praise to six well-known and much-beloved Alaska wildflower species" and a "testament to the magic that can happen when artists, writers, and scientists respond to one another's work."

The essayist Erica Watson wrote eloquently about *Collected Treasures* as part of the Rasmuson Foundation's 49 Writers project: "Stomberg's attention to connections between object and story places her work squarely in the tradition of naturalists documenting particular instants in time and space, and also of artists exploring the evolving continuum of human history. It opens spaces for conversations across fields of study, each collaboration and connection a tiny flower huddled just under the soil, waiting for a tug into the light."

Collected Treasures was exhibited (as not for sale) at the Fairbanks Arts Association Bear Gallery in Fairbanks in August of 2018. It has been featured on the Rasmuson Foundation website and in the upcoming issue of *The Botanical Artist*, the journal for the American Society of Botanical Artists. If awarded funding, UAMN will purchase it directly from the artist and exhibit it beginning in November of 2019 to coincide with the exhibit *Alaska Botany and Plant Science*, part of the ongoing Expedition Alaska series in the UAMN Collections Gallery.



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Describe the artist: Who made the piece, where were they trained and where do they work today, how does the artwork reflect the artist's personal history and body of work?

(5000 characters max)

Karen Stomberg has lived in Alaska for 47 years and influenced many generations of young artists (this Curator included) in her career as a traveling K-12 Art Instructor visiting 100 classrooms three times each year at 19 schools, and later as the Director of the Art Program at the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District. Stomberg received her BA in Art History and Art Education in 1972 from the University of Massachusetts, and a BFA in Printmaking from UAF in 1981. She has exhibited her work in more than 40 invitational or juried exhibitions, five solo exhibitions, and has curated three exhibitions. In the five years since her retirement, she has dedicated herself full-time to her botanical illustrations, seeking out training from masters in the discipline. Her dedication and achievements have been recognized at the national level from the American Society of Botanical Artists who will be featuring *Collected Treasures* in the upcoming issue of *The Botanical Artist*.

Describe the significance: How does this piece fit into the museum's collecting plans? Why is it important to the museum? Clearly state how the proposed purchase conforms to the mission of the institution.

(5000 characters max)

As the only museum in the state with a tripartite mission of research, teaching, and collecting, the mission of the University of Alaska Museum of the North (UAMN) is to use the diverse botanical, geological, zoological and cultural collections as the basis of understanding the past, present, and future. The goal of the fine art collection is to physically document the artistic history of Alaska and further our understanding of Alaska's past, present, and future through the acquisition, interpretation, exhibition, and preservation of works of art. Karen Stomberg's *Collected Treasures: Six Alaska Wildflowers* more than meets UAMN's mission and specific collection goals. Not only does *Collected Treasures* showcase the intellectual curiosity and artistic skill of an established Alaska artist who is not currently represented in the collection but it makes visible the complex personal connections to place, time, scientific heritage, and the nature of preservation and impermanence. *Collected Treasures* also bridges disciplines between visual art, history, and natural history. If acquired, it would join other important botanical studies at UAMN, such as the 98 botanical watercolors by Dee Joesting donated in 1996 by Terris Moore. *Collected Treasures* would contribute significantly to the collection and provide great value for future exhibition and research.

Describe the method of sharing: What is the museum's plan for sharing this work with the public? Discuss any plans for exhibition, loans, publications, online resources, newsletter, press release, etc. where the piece will be made available. Clearly state how the proposed purchase meets collection and exhibition goals of the institution.

(5000 characters max)

The University of Alaska Museum of the North (UAMN) is excited to have the opportunity to share this artwork with the public. If able to acquire *Collected Treasures*, UAMN will display the drawings starting in November of 2019 to coincide with the exhibit *Alaska Botany and Plant Science*, part of the ongoing *Expedition Alaska* series in the UAMN Collections Gallery. Karen Stomberg will offer botanical illustration workshops at the museum and a botanical illustration course during UAF's wintermester in January 2020. Karen Stomberg and the *Collected Treasures* are part of a series of video interviews with Alaska artists that Curator Mareca Guthrie is creating for use for UAF Art Department courses. Images of and information about *Collected Treasures* would be permanently available to the public on Arctos, the publicly accessible database that UAMN uses for collections.

Clearly explain how the price of the artwork was determined.

(5000 characters max)



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The total price for Collected Treasures is \$9,000 which comes to \$500 per framed drawing. This price is consistent with fair market value as each drawing is framed in a custom frame made by Scott Holladay from Holladay Hardwoods and mounted using archival mat board and non-reflective acrylic.

UAMN recognizes that it may be unusual to propose multiple objects for a single purchase, but with Collected Treasures, we feel that the individual drawings must remain together to function the way the artist intended. Both the intellectual and artistic integrity of the artwork requires that the drawings be collected and exhibited as a whole. Much of the power of Collected Treasures would be lost if the viewer could not make the comparisons and connections between drawings of the same species. Each individual drawing has accompanying text that can be exhibited alongside it but it is not the artist's intent for each drawing to stand alone, rather they are all essential components of the larger work of art.

Is there anything else the review committee needs to know about your application?

(5000 characters max)

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Provenance

Please provide the provenance of the artwork, insofar as possible (including date of composition, places and dates of showings, awards and dates, and previous owners).

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Provenance

(15000 characters max)

The 18 drawings that make up Collected Treasures were completed in 2018 with the support of a 2017 Rasmuson Individual Artist Award. It was exhibited (as not for sale), at the Fairbanks Arts Association Bear Gallery in Fairbanks in August of 2018 and in the artist's book of the same title. The project has been featured online as part of the Rasmuson Foundation's 49 Writers series as well as in the upcoming issue of The Botanical Artist, the journal for the American Society of Botanical Artists. If funded, Collected Treasures will be purchased directly from the artist and exhibited at UAMN beginning in November of 2019 to coincide with the exhibit Alaska Botany and Plant Science, part of the ongoing Expedition Alaska series in the UAMN Collections Gallery.

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Optional Attachments

You may attach up to six additional optional attachments.

If you are applying for funding for a commissioned work, you must contact the program administrator in advance of submitting your application, in order to discuss your application and receive information about required additional attachments for commissioned works.

If you need to attach more than six attachments, please contact the program administrator.

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Optional Attachment

[Stomberg CV.1 February 2019.pdf](#)

Optional Attachment

[Use Agreement.pdf](#)

Optional Attachment

No File Uploaded

Optional Attachment

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