

In Bloom: The Botanical Paintings of T. Merrill Prentice

The New Britain Museum of America is exhibiting an array of botanical paintings by Connecticut native T. (Thurlow) Merrill Prentice (1898–1985). This is the most extensive exhibition of these paintings at the NBMAA since their gift by the artist in 1977. Prentice's vibrant watercolors showcase lively wildflowers and plants found throughout the American Northeast. These plants and flowers became a subject of fascination for the artist, and from the late 1960s to the early 1970s, Prentice produced hundreds of carefully observed paintings of rare and common species. His works were exhibited at venues such as the Hartford Art School and the New York Botanical Garden, and a portfolio of 114 botanical studies by Prentice was published in the book *Weeds and Wildflowers of Eastern North America* (1973). Capturing the beauty and resilience of flowers in a staggering variety, Prentice's delicate watercolors serve as inspiration for the preservation and appreciation of our natural world.



T. Merrill Prentice (1898–1985), *Day Lily*, 1969, Watercolor, 24 x 18 1/8 in., New Britain Museum of American Art, Gift of

the Artist

About the artist

During his life, Prentice was a celebrated architect who ran firms in New York and Hartford from the 1920s to the 1960s, following studies at Yale, Columbia University, and the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris. While studying in France in the mid-1920s, Prentice became interested in watercolor, a medium that he enjoyed using but had little time to devote himself to until four decades later, following his retirement in 1965. After settling in Cornwall, Connecticut, in his later life, Prentice began to observe and paint wildflowers he found throughout his property and the wider region.

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March 25, 2019–September 8, 2019

The Helen T. and Philip B. Stanley Gallery

New Britain Museum of American Art, New Britain, CT

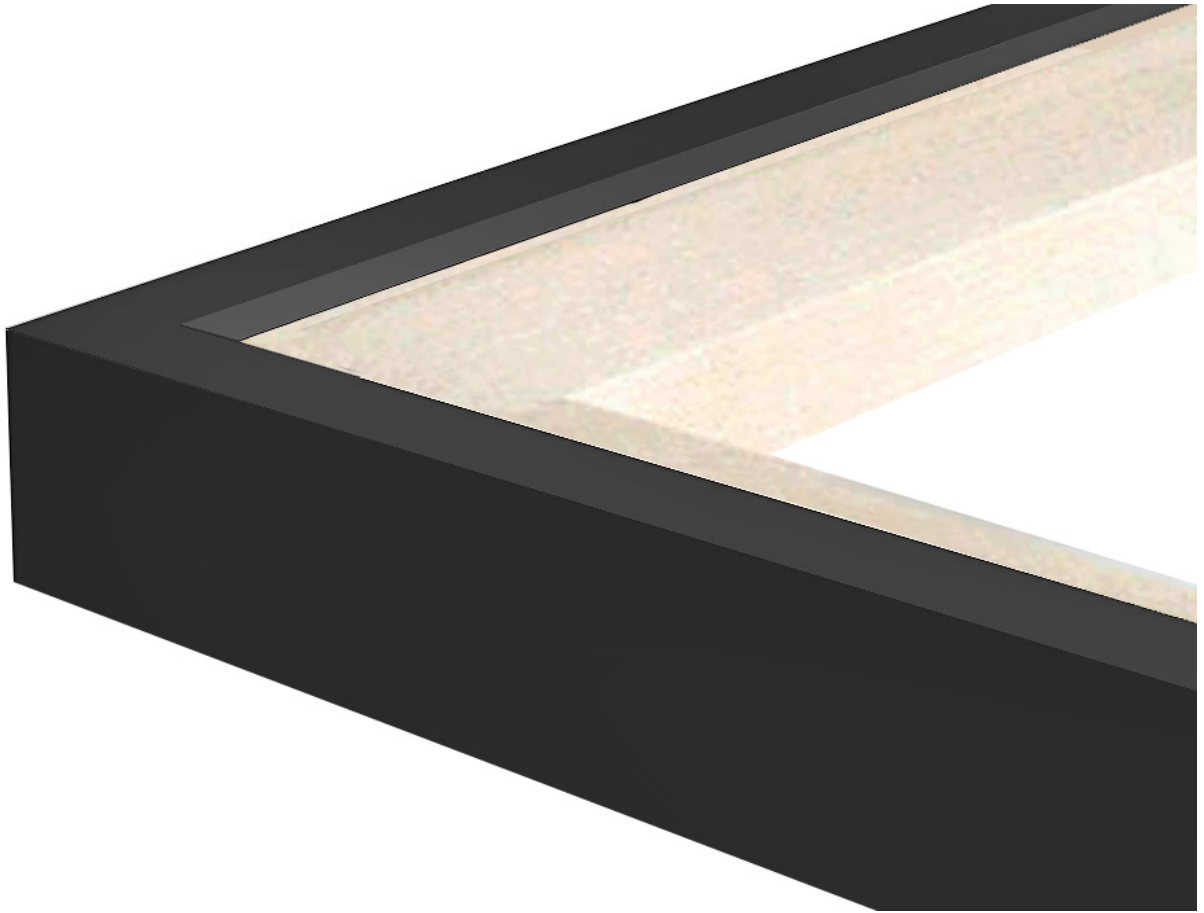


Canada Goldenrod , Watercolor 1977.77.95. Wood lily,
watercolor 1977.77.53. Burdock, Watercolor 1977.77.70

Framing Specifications



Purple Loosestrife 1971, Watercolor 1977.77.88.



METRO GALLERY FRAME

Profile: 106

Type: Standard Gallery Frame

Wood & Finish: maple frame with charcoal finish

Purchasing Option: joined wood frame

Custom Wood Strainer: 3/4" wood frame strainer

Custom Frame Acrylic: acrylic cut to size

Custom Frame Mats/sized boards: 4 ply antique white sized board