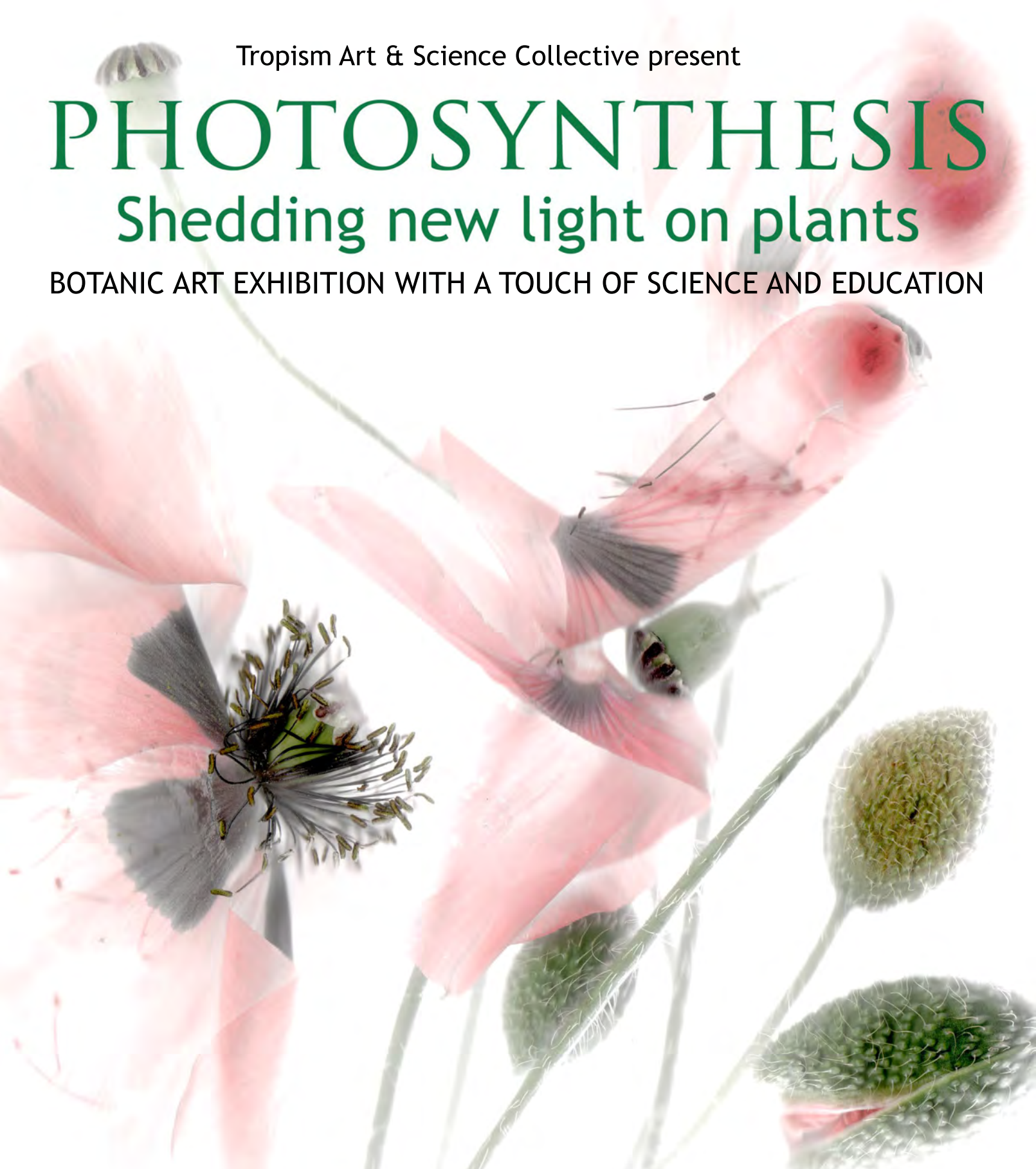
Tropism Art & Science Collective present

PHOTOSYNTHESIS

Shedding new light on plants

BOTANIC ART EXHIBITION WITH A TOUCH OF SCIENCE AND EDUCATION



The world of plants as we have never seen before. That is the essence of this traveling exhibition. Artists belonging to art movement Tropism have been photographing the world of plants, using unusual, often scientific, visualisation techniques. The use of infrared, x-ray, ultraviolet and electron microscopy give the images a surrealistic and magical touch. The results are unique artistic visualisations that offer a surprising and spectacularly different view on plants.

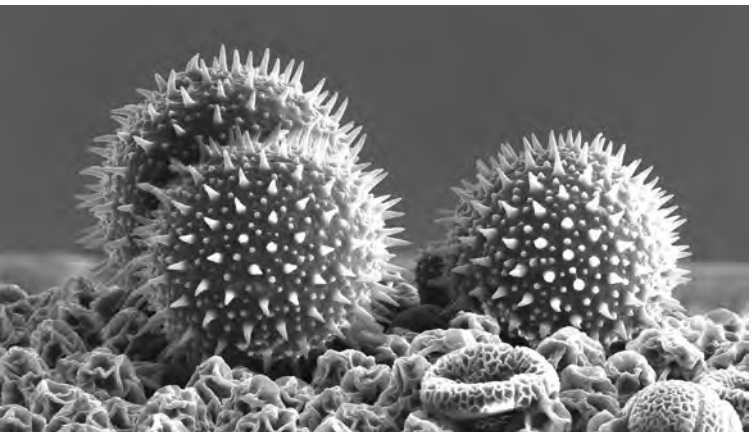
TROPISM

The dictionary definition of tropism is: 'the ability of an organism to direct itself towards a stimulus'. The most common example of tropism is a plant growing in the direction of light. As an art movement, Tropism wants to increase people's perceptions by making use of certain triggering stimuli. The artists want to capture the world around them in a way that both engages and surprises the spectator.

CONCEPT

The concept of the exhibition is to shed new light on the world of plants. The exhibition includes seventeen fine art series or perceptions, a range of movies and some installations, each realised in a special, often scientific, visualisation technique. The presentation of the works aims to surprise visitors. The images raise the question: 'What do we see? Is this for real?' Explanatory texts inform the visitor on subject and technique, as well as on the vision of the artist.
Each series has a Latinised name that typefaces the perception. Some of those perceptions are:

Flora Imago (cover)
Photograms - Margot van de Stolpe
An airy essence of plants captured as if it are botanic watercolour paintings.



Micro Ars Ravus
Scanning electron microscopy (SEM) - Frans Holthuysen
The plant's microarchitecture; diatoms and pollen.

Panorama Circa
Hyperbolic panorama photography - Robin Noorda
Projecting the perception of the convex insect's eye onto a flat surface.

Infra Russus
Infrared photography - Robin Noorda
In infrared photography, the naked tree or plant is shown, the plant unadorned, as insects and birds see more in the ultraviolet spectrum.

Ferro Ornatus
19th-century orthophotography - Karl Blossveldt
Macro-photographs of plants, taken between 1880 and 1932 that look like casted iron.

Inter Arbores
Layered Photography - Alfred Marseille
Space defined by the rhythm of trees along roads, lanes and paths is stacked in an interference pattern, thus revealing an abstracted essence.

Herba Cubus Caterva
Photographic illusion - Margot van de Stolpe
Flocking Shapescapes are swarming form formations.

Trans Planta
Röntgen photograms - Arie van 't Riet
Staged still lives dioramas in positive X-ray images.

Camera Obscura
Pinhole photography - Bethany de Forest
Fantasy worlds as if we are tiny insects ourselves.

Flora Volta
Kirlian electrophotograms - Robin Noorda
Leaves display a kind of halo within a high-frequency electromagnetic field.

Micro Cryo Color
colour SEM - Adriaan van Aelst
Scanning Electron Microscopy of plant preparations in 'cryo' conditions, i.e. temperatures below -180°C.

Locus Omnibus
Photo Montage - Alfred Marseille
Each picture represents an inventory of the various details and viewpoints at a specific forest location.

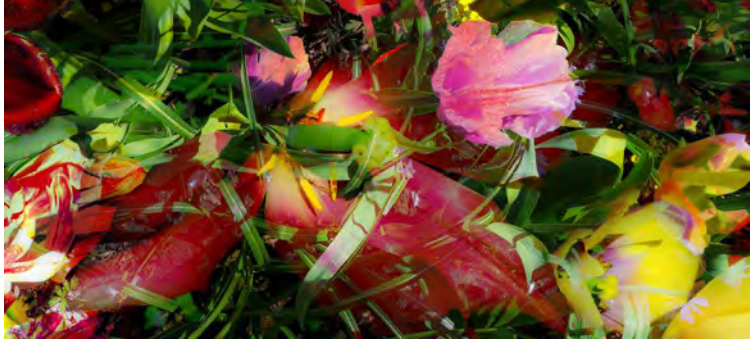
Arbor Orbis
Layered Photography – Alfred Marseille
A series of images of trees, in which the viewpoint of the spectator has disappeared.

Dia Herbaria
Projection prints (without camera) - Els van der Monde
Direct-prints of transparent plants parts sandwiched between glass slides.

Ultra Vanity
UV photography - Margot van de Stolpe, Robin Noorda
How do insects and birds see flowers, fruits and berries? The plant-world lit by a 365nm torch in UVIVF.

Formica Russus Socius
Animation film - Robin Noorda, Bethany de Forest
Awarded stop-motion film presenting the metaphor of the flexibility of plants versus the culture of greed.

Insecta Spectra
Dr Klaus Schmitt, Robin Noorda – short film
Butterfly and bee vision took with a special UV lens.



Flora Sauvage
Photography, collage - Margot van de Stolpe
Focus on a revealing source of the lush design that is so typical of procreation.

Flora Sonora
Robin Noorda, Susanne Ohmann – audio installation, film and/or performance
Plants reactions to touch are translated into audio by means of an E.E.G. apparatus and a synthesiser.

DETAILS

The Photosynthesis exhibition wants to let visitors explore the mysterious and invisible world of plants and surprise them with a unique array of perceptions.
The experience aims at enriching the awareness of the beauty, inspiration, relevance, significance, magic, force, flexibility, value and vulnerability of plants.

The travelling exhibition is made possible by funding from several Dutch cultural funds and the Tropism Art & Science Foundation. The artists and Wageningen University also supported the project.

The first venue was the Hortus Botanicus Amsterdam with a summer exhibition and attracted 100.000 visitors. The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburg had the most extensive exhibition and attracted over 200.000 visitors. The Flower Art Museum in Aalsmeer (NL) has a permanent wing dedicated to Photosynthesis, showing a changing selection and new work.

All artworks are realised in museum-quality prints and are for sale in limited editions. Exhibition design, posters, a well-illustrated print catalogue and app are available and can be customised.

CONTACT

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