

Botanica Colossi



We invite you to use this family guide for exploration, discovery and to support discussion throughout the virtual exhibition. Visit the exhibition [here](#). You'll be able to click on different images to see the art up close.

Botanica Colossi is a series of photographs by Sara Angelucci. Sara makes a lot of different types of art, like photographs and videos. She is one of the featured artists in this year's [Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival](#). This is a festival that happens every year to celebrate art and photography.

There are many themes throughout Sara's art. In the online exhibition, you will see many beautiful photographs of plants that were taken at night. Sara used a scanner to help photograph these plants in the Pretty River Valley in Southern Ontario.

At first, you might just see images of flowers, stems, seeds, leaves and insects, but Sara is actually exploring many themes in her art. Sara is looking at the natural environment and different forces that have had ecological impacts on Ontario's landscape.



Invasive and Native Plants

Indigenous plants and invasive plants are tangled together in Sara’s art. What does this mean? Invasive plants are found outside of where they naturally belong. For example, they may have been planted in Ontario but came from another country. They pose a threat because they can spread and push out indigenous plants.

Indigenous or native plants naturally exist in an ecosystem and are connected to other plants and animals found in the same area.

Can you find these native and invasive species in the virtual exhibition?

Ontario Invasive Species

White Clover



Lady’s Mantle



Bladder Campion



Ontario Native Species

White Yarrow



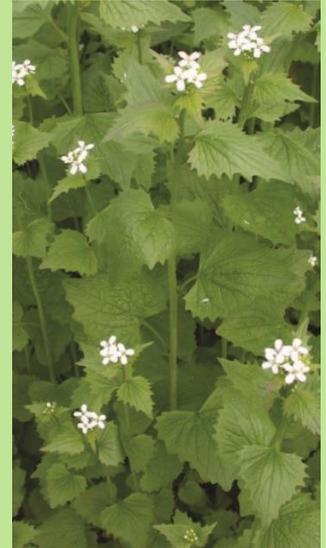
Wild Strawberries



Milkweed



Take it outside! On a walk through your neighbourhood, see if you can spot any native or invasive species in gardens or on paths. The Ontario Invasive Plant Council has a [handy guide](#) you can use on your walk. [Garlic mustard](#) is an example of an invasive plant that is taking over many neighbourhoods.



Invasive species can interfere with pollinators. **Pollinators** are insects and animals, like bees, hummingbirds and butterflies, that help carry pollen from one part of a plant to another. This is one way that plants get fertilized and produce fruits, seeds and young plants. You can help by adding native pollinator friendly plants to your outdoor spaces! There are many Ontario native plants that attract pollinators – like coneflowers, milkweed and wild strawberries.

Feeling inspired? It's time to create! Many artists, like Sara Angelucci, enjoy making art outdoors. This is known as "en plein air". Artists make their art outside, often painting or drawing the landscape they see. Find a nearby garden or park. Using any materials that you would like (such as acrylic paint, watercolours, or pencil crayons), paint or draw what you see.

