

PRESS RELEASE  
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## Victorian Botanical Illustrations by Women Adorn SB Museum of Natural History's Walls

- Exhibit open March 10–July 2, 2023
- Included in Museum admission
- More information at [sbnature.org/drawn](https://sbnature.org/drawn)

[SANTA BARBARA, CA] — The Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History's newest exhibit, *Drawn by a Lady: Early Women Illustrators*, celebrates the talent of artists and authors in 19<sup>th</sup> century Victorian England who were disregarded because of their gender.

Over 40 works of early botanical illustration are on view profiling the lives of eight women who defied convention in an era when it was socially unacceptable for them to earn a living. Denied access to formal education, they used their skills in drawing and painting to make meaningful contributions to the emerging field of botany. They wrote and illustrated books, sometimes published anonymously, using their husband's name, or credited simply,..."By a Lady."

Maximus Gallery Curator Linda Miller shares, "*Drawn by a Lady* provides a fascinating look at gender issues in the history of science. For Victorian women, illustrating and writing about plants could be a means to both support themselves and to shape botanical knowledge."

The exhibition is open March 10 through July 2, 2023 and is included in Museum admission. Members are always admitted free.



No. 55 by Jane Wells Loudon

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## About the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

*Powered by Science. Inspired by Nature.* Founded in 1916, the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History inspires a thirst for discovery and a passion for the natural world. The Museum seeks to connect people to nature for the betterment of both, and prides itself on being *naturally different*. For more information, visit [sbnature.org](http://sbnature.org).



Christmas Lily (*pancratium amboinense*)  
by Priscilla Susan Bury



*Typhaceae. The Bulrush Tribe.*  
by Elizabeth Twining