

PRESS RELEASE

**Contact: Maggie Heran, Director
Lloyd Library & Museum
513-721-3707
mheran@lloydlibrary.org**

For Immediate Release

January 7, 2008

**The Works of Artist Lynn Carden in the Gallery at Lloyd Library and Museum
“It Began at the Lloyd: An Artist’s Journey” February 2—April 30, 2008
Opening Reception: Saturday, February 2, 2008, 4—6pm**



This exhibition will be a departure from the “typical” one, in which an artist displays his or her most recent work. This one will actually be a retrospective that documents Lynn Carden’s research experience at the Lloyd and the art she subsequently began making. From her original sketch books to the Lloyd resources in which she found inspiration and its results, Carden will hang her unique floor-to-ceiling mixed-media drawings, create a “mini” installation of her sketch books, tools, and books from the Lloyd collection as well as display a few of her more recent pieces. The exhibit will allow visitors to see how her work developed over the dozen or so years since she first visited the Lloyd. Carden tells the story beautifully in her own words: “In 1998 the Art Academy

of Cincinnati hosted an exhibit of my work—a roomful of huge, blown-up depictions of the tiny working parts of flowers. Outrageous as they were, the story of how they came to be is a tale of quiet inquiry at another of Cincinnati’s cultural institutions, the Lloyd Library.

“During the preceding winter, when my garden lay under a blanket of snow, I put down my brushes to do some research. For years I’d been drawing and painting botanical matter as still life, landscape, and more recently as the subject of botanical illustration. But I knew little about this last genre. I certainly was not a scientist as the early illustrators had been: they bisected their lilies and orchids; they studied the botany. So what could I learn from the work they left behind? I needed to find out. And that is what drew me to the Lloyd Library.

“At first I didn’t know whether the library would tolerate an artist working in its midst. But the staff cheerfully brought me book after book from its stacks, offered me white gloves to use while handling their precious antiquities and moved furniture so that I could work.

“In this quiet and friendly space, I leafed through page after page of colorful depictions of the world’s flora. But what fascinated me were the line drawings that accompanied the flamboyant flowers, the tiny ones that defined the flower’s reproductive parts. Their infinite variety and sensuality amazed me. Using a magnifying glass and chalk, I sketched their intricate shapes, enlarging them many fold until I had enough of

them to cover the walls of my studio. And from these studies, I made the eye of a pansy into a six foot sculptural shape on canvas, the throat of an iris into a venus-like statue.

“Since that time, those little drawings from the archives of the Lloyd have continued to be a source of inspiration for my newer work which I will also be displaying at the upcoming show in the library's beautiful new gallery space.”

The **Lloyd Library and Museum**, located at 917 Plum Street, downtown Cincinnati, is a local and regional treasure. The library was developed in the nineteenth century by the Lloyd brothers—John Uri, Curtis Gates, and Nelson Ashley to provide reference sources for Lloyd Brothers Pharmacists, Inc., one of the leading pharmaceutical companies of the period. Today the library is recognized worldwide by the scientific community as a vital research center. The library holds, acquires, and provides access to both historic and current materials on the subjects of pharmacy, botany, horticulture, herbal and alternative medicine, pharmacognosy, and related topics. Although our collections have a scientific focus, they also have relevance to humanities topics, such as visual arts and foreign languages through resources that feature botanical and natural history illustrations, original artworks, and travel literature, thereby revealing the convergence of science and art. The Lloyd is open to anyone with an interest in these topics. Free parking is available for patrons and visitors behind the library building. For more information, visit the Lloyd website at www.lloydlibrary.org.

Lloyd Library and Museum

917 Plum Street

Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

513-721-3707

www.lloydlibrary.org

Open Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Open the third Saturday of the month, September through May, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Bringing Science, Art, and History to Life