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INTERPRETING BONSAL

A bonsai portrays a vision of a tree or trees of great character. Each bonsai tells a story, suggesting the environment where it exists and the impacts of this on its life. A bonsai creation may represent a grand oak in a meadow becoming all that it can be, a mountainside pine reaching out, with branches repeatedly broken or bared by falling rock and ice, a tree on a coastline shaped by strong prevailing winds, a juniper with a single trunk cascading down a steep cliff, or just a calm forest scene. Yet each tree prevails, often evoking an emotion such as pride, determination, or serenity.

The bonsai pot establishes a place for the tree(s) to exist, drawing your attention to the bonsai, but only in a supporting role, as the frame does for a painting. The pot will often complement or contrast with bark, foliage, or flowers and should reflect the overall style and features of the tree, yielding a consistent vision. At times, it simply represents the earth below.

First, glance at the surface for a sense of surroundings. Then, let the trunk of the bonsai lead you on a journey, telling you where it lives and providing a sense of its life story. Next, let the branches fill in the chapters of the story, and finally, the foliage suggests the state of its life today... lush, restrained, or perhaps windy. Smaller trees and branches in the background provide perspective, a third dimension.

Note any nuances, such as rocks or slanted pots or exposed roots suggesting a mountain or riverside, ferns implying lowlands, flowers suggesting spring, or the texture and colour of the pot reflecting that of bark or foliage. Small companion pots (*shitakusa*) enhance the sense of the surrounding landscape. Larger *kusamono* without trees represent visions of a landscape on their own.

A bonsai is never "complete," always growing and evolving, a four-dimensional art form. We hope that you enjoy our never-ending stories.

- Stu Innes

A WEEKEND OF BONSAI

Join Bonsai Winnipeg each day for a different curated experience in the world of Bonsai.

THURSDAY, June 26
Exhibit open12:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Opening night gala with refreshments6:30 pm - 9:00 pm
Words of welcome
Performance by Fubuki Daiko / Kind Heart Women Singers 7:05 - 7:40 pm
Private preview of the exhibit with artists onsite
Trivate preview of the exhibit with artists offsite
FRIDAY, June 27
Exhibit open
Guided tours of the exhibit
SATURDAY, June 28
Exhibit open
Demonstrations by bonsai artists (Ilavut Theater)
- Trieu Vo and assistant demonstrate styling large mountain pine
- Denis Girardin and assistant assemble a forest bonsai
Guided tours of the exhibit 2:30 pm and 3:30 pm
SUNDAY, June 29
Exhibit open
Bonsai Stories presentation 2:00 pm - 2:30 pm
Guided tours of the exhibit 2:30 pm and 3:30 pm

40 YEARS OF BONSALIN MANITOBA



The Bonsai Society of Winnipeg was formed in the early 1980s by a group of like-minded bonsai enthusiasts. The society has grown from historical membership levels of 30 or 40 to well over 100 members in recent years. In addition to monthly educational meetings, society activities include collecting trees from the wild, group orders for materials and trees, and hands-on workshops including those led by internationally recognized visiting artists. Members all have access to Bonsai Winnipeg's significant lending library and informational courses are offered to the public each year. Over the years our members

have authored many articles in local and international publications. Our executive board is made up of twelve individuals with varied backgrounds, all of whom share a passion for the Art of Bonsai, and a desire to drive the society forward.

As a member of Bonsai Clubs International (BCI) Bonsai Winnipeg maintains ties to clubs and artists all over the world. Recently, the society has expanded with members from the east coast of Canada through to the Rocky Mountains in the west.

Every other year Bonsai Winnipeg hosts a Members' Bonsai Display—an opportunity for all members to learn about showing trees from their collection. Everyone in the society is encouraged to display at least one tree. In recent years this Display has showcased almost 150 trees in various states of development, and has been attended by over 1,000 people.

For the Society's 40th Anniversary, 2025's exhibit is a special curated, hand-picked exhibit and our second partnership with the aWinnipeg Art Gallery-Qaumajuq. The Bonsai Society of Winnipeg is once again honoured to be able to showcase the artistry of 22 of Manitoba's premiere bonsai artists in this prestigious venue.







BONSAI COLLECTIONS

BONSAI STORIES (5 BONSAI)

These bonsai consist of a variety of styles and species and each has a story to tell.

Begin your journey through the exhibit by exploring the traditions and techniques of bonsai, along with the intentions of the artists.



TROPICAL BONSAI (17 BONSAI)

Discover bonsai from exotic locales across the globe—Japan, the Carribean, South-East Asia, China, India, etc. Tropical bonsai require warm temperatures all year round.

These bonsai consist of species like ficus, fukien tea, Japanese maple and Brazilian raintrees, and beautiful flowering specimens like bougainvillea and azalea.



3 SHOHIN/MAME BONSAI (15 BONSAI)

Shohin and Mame are Japanese terms that represent the two smallest traditional Japanese size classifications for bonsai. Requiring a total height of no more than nine inches, their extreme miniaturization makes them the most challenging bonsai to create and maintain, often requiring multiple waterings daily.



BONSAI PAIRED WITH CLASSICAL ARTWORKS (14 BONSAI)

The bonsai in these galleries were specifically chosen to compliment with the artworks. The contrast between living trees and classical masterpieces creates a striking dialogue between nature and art.



5 NATIVE MANITOBA BONSAI (27 BONSAI)

We don't need to look too far afield to find picturesque trees. Manitoba is filled with beautiful and stately species—from conifers like tamarack, pine, cedar and spruce to deciduous trees like aspen, maple and birch.

Observe these Canadian bonsai among the Inuit artworks for an experience unlike any other.



6 FORESTS AND LANDSCAPES (14 BONSAI)



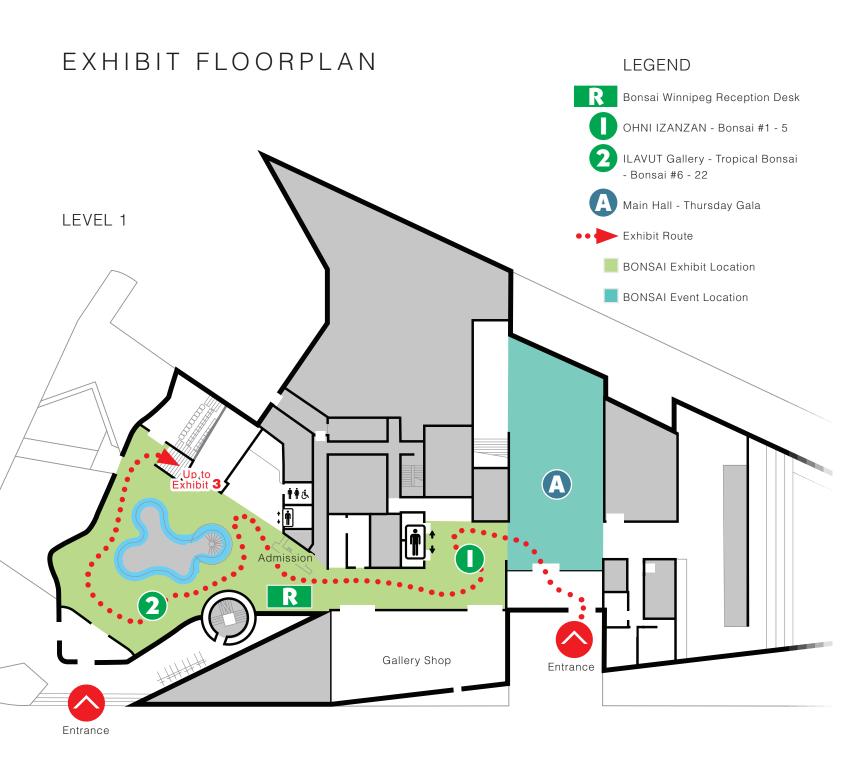
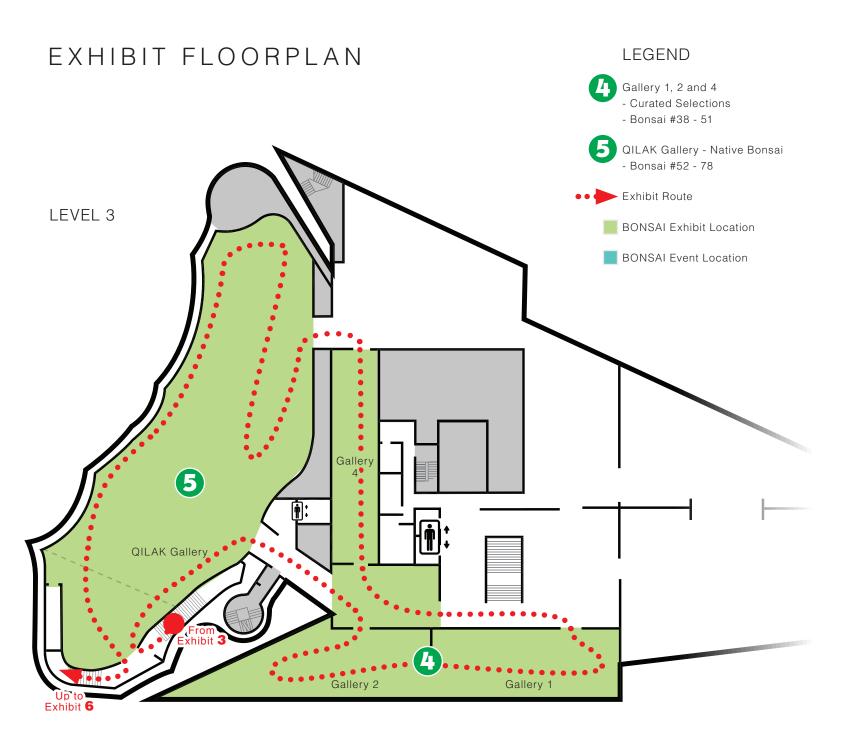
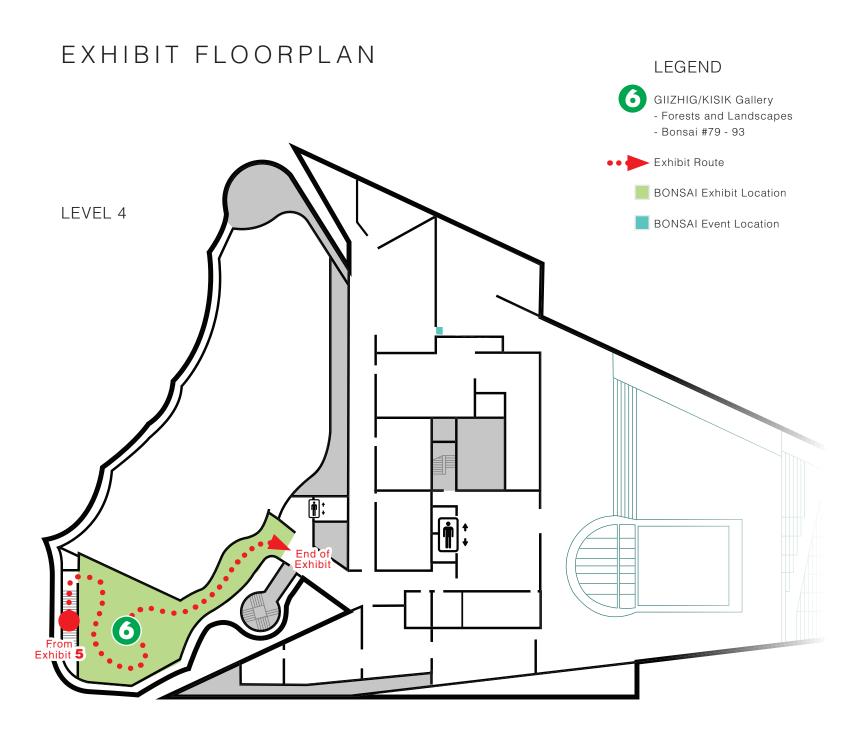


EXHIBIT FLOORPLAN LEGEND 3 ILAVUT Mezzanine - Shohin Bonsai - Bonsai #23 - 37 1 ILIPVIK Theatre - Saturday Demonstrations ILIPVIK Theatre - Sunday Presentation Exhibit Route BONSAI Exhibit Location BONSAI Event Location

From Exhibit 2







Steve took a Bonsai course in pursuit of a retirement hobby and has been enjoyably working at his hobby for the last 11 years. He is interested in all aspects of Bonsai culture including making pots, marrying Asian and Universal esthetic design and the horticultural principles that underlie this unique art form that constantly requires problem solving. He has been inspired by the trees of club members and how they achieved their results and now this in turn has fostered a journey of creativity, learning from failures, enjoying successful outcomes and exchanging ideas with new friends.



52 Winds of Change; Lake Superior EASTERN WHITE CEDAR Thuja occidentalis Alvarim has been practicing bonsai for over ten years. What began as curiosity soon became a lifelong passion, driven by the quiet discipline and creativity the art demands. Growing up around giant fig trees in public parks, he now works to recreate that same sense of wonder and nostalgia in miniature form—often using ficus and tamarind.

Living in Manitoba, he balances tropical indoor trees with hardy outdoor species and enjoys experimenting with soil blends and handmade pots. For Alvarim, bonsai is a way to slow down, connect with nature, and tell stories through trees.





I bought my first bonsai at 18 but had no idea how to care for it. After a few failures my friend Kathy and I went to a bonsai display and decided to join the club. Best decision ever!

Bonsai has enriched my life in so many ways, The education and knowledge I have gained is amazing—but the people I have met is the most valuable to me. Bonsai has taken me many places and everyone in the bonsai community is most welcoming.





Kathy began her bonsai journey in 1994 with her neighbour after visiting the annual September show at the Conservatory. Both avid gardeners, they were naturally drawn to the art and joined the club on the spot. Her favourite species include tamarack, eastern white cedar, and Japanese maple. Today, her collection includes 15 trees, both native and tropical. Shortly after joining, Kathy became the club's secretary, later served as treasurer for several years, and is currently the event volunteer coordinator.



63 The Bent Giant EASTERN WHITE CEDAR Thuja occidentalis



Richard began his bonsai journey in 2020, picking it up as a "pandemic hobby" after a brief introduction to the art as a teenager. He enjoys the challenge of keeping trees healthy, learning techniques to shape their growth, and striving for the beauty of a finished bonsai. For him, bonsai feels a bit like a science experiment—full of discovery and surprises. One such surprise came courtesy of the local rabbits, who performed an unexpected trunk chop on his outdoor collection one winter. These days, Richard is focusing on refining his collection, narrowing it to species he loves, as his success in keeping them alive has led to more trees than he can reasonably manage.



Untitled

CORAL BARK JAPANESE MAPLE Acer palmatum 'Sango-kaku' I've been fascinated by Japanese culture and art since childhood. I took my first bonsai class at Vancouver's Sun Yat-Sen Chinese Garden and joined the Winnipeg Bonsai Society in 1989. After a few "golden bonsai" (dead trees), my collection began to thrive. Over the years, I've attended workshops locally and at international conventions in Toronto and Seattle. I love the hunt for bonsai material—whether collecting wild trees (yamadori), rescuing neglected nursery stock, or growing seedlings from scratch. I currently maintain 14 trees at various stages of development and still enjoy the challenge and satisfaction bonsai brings.



26 Lovelight JAPANESE MAPLE Acer palmatus





Deb has been a member of the Winnipeg Bonsai Society since 2022 when she took her initial training for new members and received her tools. Since that time she has participated in nursery crawls and club digs. Deb's collection has grown to over 40 trees of many species. The shared enthusiasm and creativity of the Society membership has been an inspiration



85
Bear in the Woods
EASTERN LARCH
Larix laricina

Matthew joined the Bonsai Society of Winnipeg in 2021, and has recently taken on the roll of club librarian. Matthew enjoys learning the horticultural aspects of growing bonsai, collecting native trees, and experimenting with growing trees from seed.





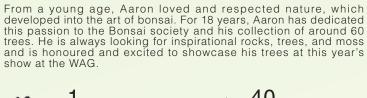
Lorne joined Bonsai Winnipeg in 2000 after hearing about a bonsai exhibit at the Assiniboine Park Conservatory on the radio. Already fascinated by bonsai, the exhibit sealed his passion. He specializes in growing trees from cuttings, allowing him to shape them from an early stage and reduce leaf size for better proportion in his Mame-size bonsai. Lorne primarily works with tropical and subtropical species, along with a few natives, and is known for his keen attention to detail—and knowing when to break the rules to create better bonsai.



8
Untitled
WILLOW
LEAF FIG
Ficus
salicifolia



23 Untitled GERMAN MYRTLE Myrtus communis 'Microphylla'





Old Man with a Cane Holding a Lantern

EASTERN LARCH Larix laricina



40 The Bow

EASTERN WHITE CEDAR Thuja occidentalis



24 Untitled GERMAN MYRTLE Myrtus communis 'Microphylla'



55 Hanging Out EASTERN LARCH Larix laricina





Stu Innes has been a member of Bonsai Winnipeg since 1991, is a past president and educator for the club, and enjoys contacting Bonsai organizations and growers while traveling. He has a collection of approximately 100 trees, most still in development, and 40 companion plantings for use in club shows. His collection includes Manitoba native and hardy species, a few tropicals, and several temperate species (requiring special overwintering conditions). As a retired engineer, Stu loves to understand how all things work, and has studied subjects such as the botanical knowledge of trees and plant growth, plant lighting, and pH levels, which he routinely shares with the membership.

Sky discovered bonsai through his Nana in 2010 after finding a small Siberian elm growing among bricks in his driveway. Its unusual root structure inspired him to pot it, and his Nana commented that it looked like a bonsai. He soon began studying the art through online videos. In 2016, a visit to bonsai master Kunio Kobayashi's garden in Japan deepened his interest. After COVID, he joined the Bonsai Society of Winnipeg and took the introductory course. Today, he's developing a large collection of pre-bonsai into show-worthy trees.



4 Michinori

SHIMPAKU JUNIPER Juniperus chinensis 'Shimpaku'



25 Tiny Shiny

HINOKI CYPRESS Chamaecyparis obtusa



45 Untitled

EASTERN WHITE CEDAR Thuja occidentalis



44 Giuthas beag

MOUNTAIN PINE Pinus mugo



83 Hinoki High

HINOKI CYPRESS Chamaecyparis obtusa



64 Helma

SIBERIAN ELM Ulmus pumila



Dean has been 'wrangling' bonsai since the late 1980s. He has served as president twice and may have been vice president, but he is unsure. His tree collection has been as large as 50, with many global species. Recently he has chosen to focus his collection mainly on native Manitoba species. His favoured species are tamarack and jack pine, with a developing fondness for eastern white cedar. Dean just received his first potentilla, but apparently, they are finicky. It may be a short-lived affection—we will see.



46 Forest Guardian

EASTERN LARCH Larix laricina



66 Watcher of the Skies

EASTERN WHITE CEDAR Thuja occidentalis



47 Not too Old for Tea

EASTERN LARCH *Larix laricina*



a collection of over 30 bonsai in various stages of development. He works primarily with Native Manitoba and subtropical species.

both broadleaf and coniferous. His art aims to echo the grandeur of

71 Vernal Thunder, Volley Green

SILVER BIRCH Betula pendula



O / The Wanderer

PRINCE OF WALES JUNIPER Juniperus horizontalis 'Prince of Wales'



68 Resting Giant

JACK PINE Pinus banksiana



72 Taiga Halcyon

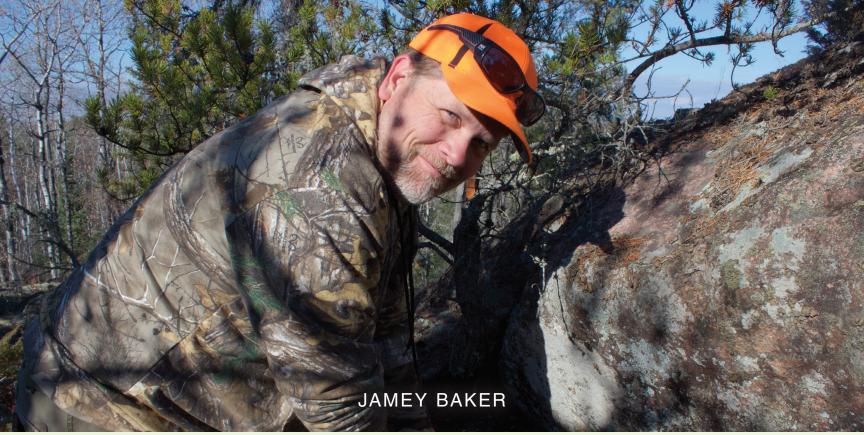
nature—ecology muted, in tooth and claw.

JACK PINE Pinus banksiana



84 Spirit of the Protector

EASTERN LARCH *Larix laricina*



Jamey has been creating bonsai for five years and has approximately 85 trees (consisting of 18 different species) in various stages of development. Jamey's favourite styles are informal upright and semi-cascade, and the best part of creating a bonsai is the initial wiring and branch setting to create the style of the tree. Jamey coordinates all of Bonsai Winnipeg's digs and nursery crawls and is constantly looking for his next bonsai.



5 Untitled ITOIGAWA JUNIPER Juniperus chinensis 'Itoigawa'



6 Untitled FUKIEN TEA Carmona retusa



38 Untitled COLORADO BLUE SPRUCE Picea pungens



39 Untitled JAPANESE GARDEN JUNIPER Juniperis procumbens "nana"



53 Untitled WESTERN LARCH Larix occidentalis



54Untitled

PRINCE OF WALES
JUNIPER
Juniperus horizontalis
'Prince of Wales'



Denis has been growing bonsai since 1986, initially learning from library books and using the original soil that came with his trees. He joined the bonsai society in the early 1990s, encouraged by Ardythe McMaster, and soon completed the society's bonsai course. He began cultivating native species and created the club's first forest planting, which later became its logo.

In the early 2010s, Denis's entire collection of over 40 bonsai was destroyed within a week due to accidental salt contamination in his water supply. Devastated, he stepped away from bonsai for several years. His passion was eventually rekindled by collecting yamadori and support from the society. Today, Denis's collection is larger than ever, and he regularly teaches workshops on forest plantings.









80 What a Whale Can See EASTERN WHITE CEDAR Thuja occidentalis



81 Along the Shore EASTERN LARCH Larix Iaricina



Joe has been a Winnipeg Bonsai Society member since 1989. Inspired by his childhood among fruit trees in Italy, he now cares for over 150 bonsai, including native and imported species. He's attended international conventions in North America, Europe, and Asia. After leaving behind a garden he loved, bonsai gave him a way to take trees with him—and a lifelong connection to nature and community. (Photo courtesy Mike Deal, Winnipeg Free Press)



2 After the Decline, Green

PRINCE OF WALES JUNIPER *Juniperus horizontalis* 'Prince of Wales'



9 Fig Dewson

INDIAN LAUREL FIG Ficus microcarpa 'Retusa'



The Colour of Wind

BOUGAINVILLEA Bougainvillea glabra



43 At the Water They Rise to the Sky

EASTERN LARCH Larix laricina



59 Noelander

EASTERN WHITE CEDAR Thuja occidentalis



60 Suspended in the Calm

NEEDLE JUNIPER Juniperus communis



61 To Rainbow's End

Cinquefoil Potentilla fruticosa



62 Line of Intention

EASTERN WHITE CEDAR Thuja occidentalis



82 Laurentian Grove

EASTERN LARCH Larix laricina



Quang has been practicing bonsai since the late '90s, when he joined Bonsai Winnipeg. A retired engineering teacher, he has led workshops to help fellow members develop their skills. His passion for bonsai extends to niwaki—training garden trees using bonsai techniques—creating miniature forests in his front yard for all to enjoy. His collection of tropical and native species reflects decades of careful development and refined techniques. Recently, he has been exploring tanuki (Phoenix graft), combining live trees with dramatic pieces of deadwood.



UntitledCHINESE BANYAN
Ficus microcarpa



Untitled
WILLOW LEAF FIG
Ficus salicifolia



UntitledTIGER BARK FIG
Ficus microcarpa 'Tiger Bark'



UntitledTIGER BARK FIG
Ficus microcarpa 'Tiger Bark'



TIGER BARK FIG
Ficus microcarpa 'Tiger Bark'



UntitledCOLORADO BLUE SPRUCE *Picea pungens*



70 Untitled EASTERN LARCH Larix laricina



Scott is the current President of the Bonsai Society of Winnipeg. Since childhood, Scott has been fascinated by miniatures—from building scale models to recreating little reefs in his aquariums. Bonsai has been an ongoing obsession however for the last 15 years or so. Through persistence, the mourning of plenty of great trees through the years, and with the help and education from the rest of the bonsai society, Scott's childhood dreams of one day exhibiting at the Winnipeg Art Gallery have come true. (Photo courtesy Sara Brown, Assiniboine Park Conservancy)



Stages of Grief EASTERN WHITE CEDAR Thuja occidentalis



Hanging On

TIGER BARK FIG Ficus microcarpa 'Tiger Bark'



Wind in the Grove

TREMBLING ASPEN Populus tremuloides



73 Wild at Heart **EASTERN** WHITE CEDAR Thuja occidentalis



74 Lakeside **BALSAM FIR** Abies balsamea



75 Reorientation **EASTERN** LARCH

Larix Iaricina



86 A Walk to the Falls **EASTERN**

LARCH Larix Iaricina

87 Autumn Remembrance WILLOW LEAF FIG



Deborah has been growing trees in miniature since 1995. Her collection consists mainly of native Manitoba trees. Deborah's favoured subject is the forest scene. Deb's forests are consistently among the most popular at bonsai exhibits.

The attention to detail marvels, and viewers easily cast themselves as a wayward hiker walking a forest trail.



18
Sumo #5
SCRAMBLING FIG
Ficus burtt-davyi



28
Amur Maple
AMUR MAPLE
Acer ginnala



29 Manitoba Maple BOX ELDER Acer negundo



30
The Twist
BOX ELDER
Acer negundo



88 The Stand EASTERN LARCH Larix laricina



89 Secret Garden EASTERN LARCH Larix Iaricina



90 A Walk in the Woods EASTERN LARCH Larix laricina



Laszlo is a professional jeweller and ceramic artist, experimenting with glazes, textures, and design motifs for bonsai pots. A long-time member of Bonsai Winnipeg, he enjoys scouting locations for collecting native trees. His large collection features many flowering species, including hawthorn and plum. Through his bonsai, Laszlo creatively interprets the Canadian landscape with a thoughtful and artistic touch.



19 Untitled BRAZILLIAN RAINTREE Pithecellobium tortum



31
Untitled
DWARF ARCTIC BIRCH
Betula nana







91 Untitled EASTERN LARCH Larix laricina



Trieu has been a member of The Bonsai Society of Winnipeg since 1996. His current collection (consisting of well over 70 trees) includes various conifers native to Manitoba and tropical specimens obtained from Asia and imported from Florida. Trieu has a deep understanding of the art of bonsai and a natural talent for keeping his trees happy, lush, and growing. Not hindered by any conventions, Trieu excels at creating massive representations of giant ancient forests and tiny little *mame* creations that, despite their size, carry vast amounts of expression and feeling.



VARIEGATED ROUGH LEAF FIG Ficus aspera 'Variegata'



Untitled
INDIAN LAUREL FIG
Ficus microcarpa 'Retusa'



22 UntitledCHINESE BANYAN *Ficus microcarpa* 'Kiki'

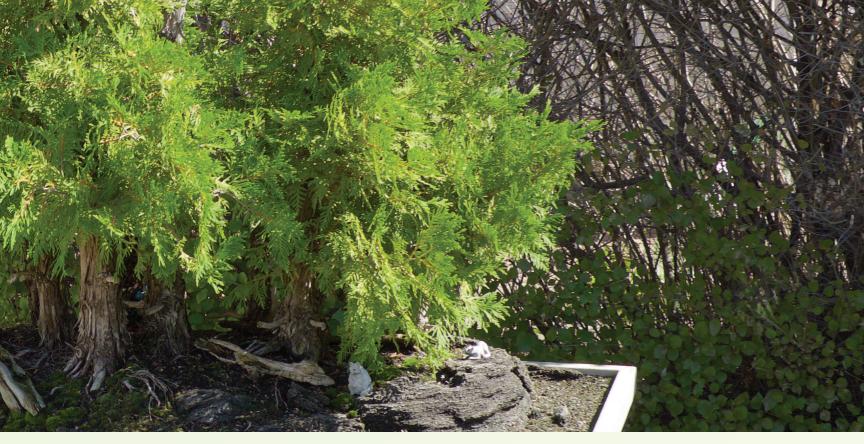




Untitled
FiG
Ficus microcarpa



34 Untitled WILLOW LEAF FIG Ficus salicifolia





35 Untitled WILLOW LEAF FIG Ficus salicifolia



36 UntitledWILLOW LEAF FIG Ficus salicifolia



37 UntitledFiG
Ficus microcarpa





76 UntitledEASTERN LARCH Larix laricina



77
Untitled
EASTERN LARCH
Larix laricina



78
Untitled
EASTERN LARCH
Larix laricina



92 Untitled EASTERN WHITE CEDAR Thuja occidentalis



93
Untitled
EASTERN WHITE CEDAR
Thuja occidentalis

FRIENDS of the BONSAI SOCIETY OF WINNIPEG



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\$500 Kathy and Daryl Gutheil

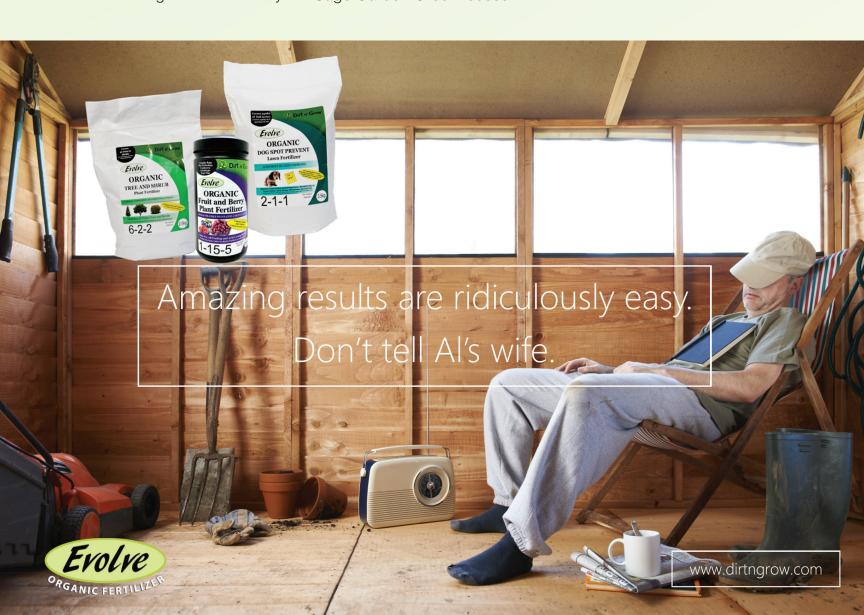
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Linda Gebel Stuart Plant Central Plains Counselling

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Randie and Jan Kushnier Paul Wiebe Stu and Debbie Innes Sage Garden Greenhouses \$100 Sharon and Brian Smerch Denis Girardin Bob and Pat Migliore Anessa Maize Lori and Tony Macario





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Congratulations to Bonsai Winnipeg on 40 years of growing creative passion!



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