



Inspired by botanical classification systems of the 17th and 18th century, as well as 19th century daguerreotypes, Janise Yntema creates portraits of red listed species to bring awareness to the beauty and sentience of the variety of critically endangered or extinct plants on the red list index.

The red list delineates plant species into categories, from regionally extinct, critically endangered, endangered, vulnerable and near threatened. These featured plants are from the critically endangered list or have become regionally extinct.

This series of beeswax and pigment drawings is part of an ongoing project on plant diversity, both from past geological eras as well as the present, with the intent to amass a selection of species from different geographic locations, creating an assemblage of global plant loss at this point in the Anthropocene era.

Each work seeks to capture the delicate presence of these intricate plant species and the beauty at risk of being lost in the plant world.

Janise Yntema is a contemporary artist specializing in the ancient hot wax technique of beeswax encaustic painting. Encaustic painting is a mixture of beeswax, resin and pigment and its use can be traced back to antiquity in the 5th century B.C. The word encaustic originates from Ancient Greek: ἐγκαυστικός, which means "burning in" as all painting is created in a molten state.

Working with beeswax has brought an environmental awareness to the forefront of Yntema's practice, leading to a concern for both the loss of pollinators and global plant biodiversity. Originally from New York, Yntema's works are in numerous public and private collections.

Considering Plants and the Question of Extinction is at Plantentuin Meise, Bouchout Castle, through September 17.

https://www.plantentuinmeise.be/en/agenda/388/by_Janise_Yntema/EXPO_Considering_plants_and_the_question_of_extinction_