

ART CANADA INSTITUTE INSTITUT DE L'ART CANADIEN

SPRING'S AWAKENING A CLOSER LOOK AT NEW GROWTH

In recognition of spring's new growth, this long weekend we invite you to look closely at this intriguing botanical photograph. As is the case with so many great <u>still lifes</u>, there is more than meets the eye in Sara Angelucci's peek at the vernal nightlife of Southern Ontario plants and insects. For this piece, part of the series Nocturnal Botanical Ontario (2019–ongoing), the photo-based artist explored the Niagara Escarpment's Pretty River Valley after hours, using a scanner to detect and record specimens. She documented a variety of plants that flower in late spring, including white clover, hound's tongue, and forget-me-nots, but the picture is not simply about natural splendour. This and the other works in Angelucci's series address the history of the land we occupy. Indigenous flora intermingle with cultivated foreign vegetation, prompting the artist to ask, "How did these plants come to be entwined?" As we head into an extended weekend, we wish you ample opportunities to reflect on the power of art, the spaces we take up, and the regenerative thinking that can bloom in tandem with nature's rebirth.

Learn more about Sara Angelucci

Explore Nocturnal Botanical Ontario in the exhibition Sara Angelucci: Undergrowth at the Varley Art Gallery

Image Credit: Sara Angelucci, *June 18, White Clover, Vetch, Black Medic, Hound's Tongue, Forget-me-nots*, 2020, from the series Nocturnal Botanical Ontario, pigment print on archival paper flush mounted to Aluminum Composite Panel, 119.4 x 86.4 cm. Courtesy of Stephen Bulger Gallery, Toronto.