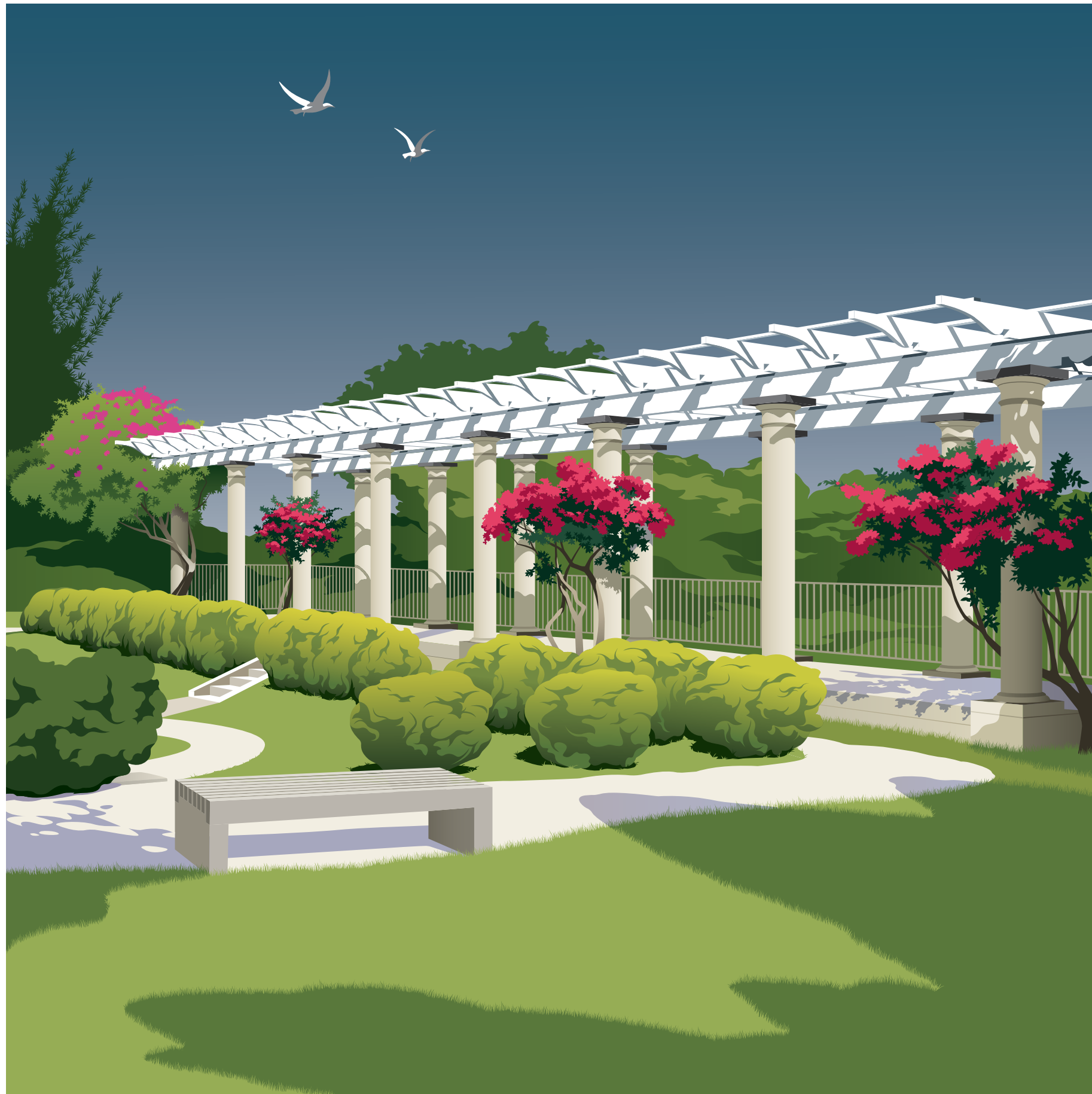


PIRMAN PERSPECTIVES

Artist John Pirman's distinctive style will grace our Downtown Sarasota campus this summer.

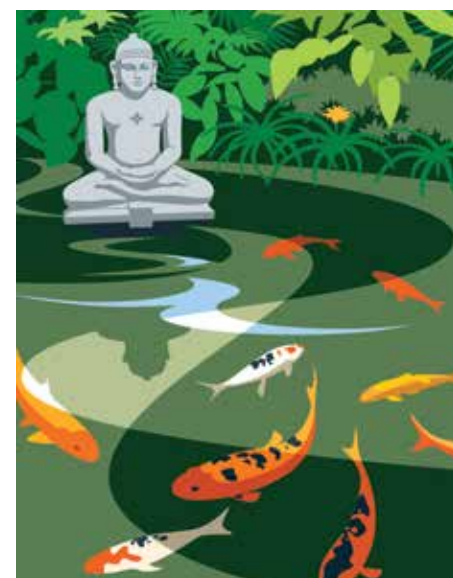


Historic Spanish Point, 2023

DIVE into NATURE this summer at Selby Gardens with the iconic art of designer and illustrator John Pirman, who has called Sarasota home since 2008. Pirman's artwork will feature in the galleries of the Museum of Botany & the Arts and the outdoor Gardens at our Downtown Sarasota campus from July 22 to September 17.

Readers of *Sarasota Magazine* will recognize Pirman's alluring views of the city and its surroundings, which have graced each issue's final page for years. A selection of these images will be accompanied by examples of his earlier work as a freelance illustrator in New York City, much of which has never been exhibited to the public. They will include shopping bags, promotional materials, and holiday cards for clients such as Bloomingdale's, Estée Lauder, Nick at Nite, and MoMA. One of the Bloomingdale's shopping bags, produced by Pirman for Christmas 1985, is now in the collection of the Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum in New York City. Two of the holiday cards are in the collection of the Victoria & Albert Museum in London.

Other highlights of the exhibition will be the original preparatory designs for a number of Pirman's finished pieces, exquisitely executed in cut paper, a technique he developed from an early age. As Pirman's artistic



Koi Pond, 2013



practice evolved, he replaced the X-ACTO knife with what, in its own way, has proven a much sharper tool: the computer. He now hand-illustrates his elegant and sophisticated compositions with precise digitization.

The layout of *John Pirman: Diving into Nature* will loosely follow the journey of Pirman's development as an artist, from his formative years in Ohio to his career in New York City and, ultimately, his current practice in Sarasota. The exhibition will show how he captures Sarasota's natural beauty and historic architecture in his own unique way, which emphasizes the interplay between these two distinctive features of our local landscape.

Pirman's passion for mid-century modern architecture and design is evident in his work, both as subject matter and as aesthetic influence, with its clean lines and clearly defined forms. Equally apparent is his love of the outdoors, including water, sun, and tropical foliage. These natural elements will resonate with the tropical environment of the botanical garden setting in which the work will be presented.

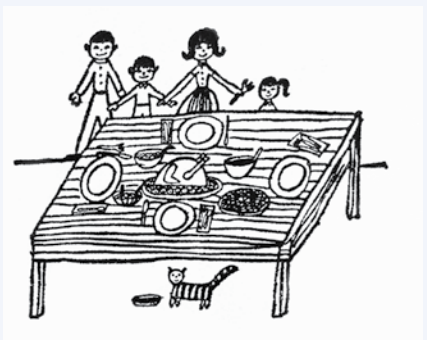
The exhibition inside the Museum will continue outside with large-scale prints of Pirman's illustrations on aluminum panels, set directly in the landscape. Among them will be beloved views of Selby Gardens, including the Selby House, the Koi Pond, and the Moreton Bay fig tree, displayed in their respective locations around the Downtown Sarasota campus. Accompanying the prints will be a large, brightly colored sculpture of powder-coated aluminum designed for a private collector. This dynamic work brings Pirman's treatment of color and geometry quite literally into the third dimension.



Pool Divers, 1988

GALLANT TALENT

John Pirman's artistic development traces back to kindergarten. A charming image of a dog from those days consists of basic geometric forms and marks his first design made from pieces of cut paper, a process he returned to early in his career. Displayed with that image will be a *Highlights* magazine from 1966, with an illustration by eight-year-old Johnny Pirman of his family at Thanksgiving dinner—Pirman's first published artwork!



Lifeguard Whistle, 1992

JOHN PIRMAN DIVING into NATURE

July 22–September 17
Downtown Sarasota Campus