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Elisa Lajini
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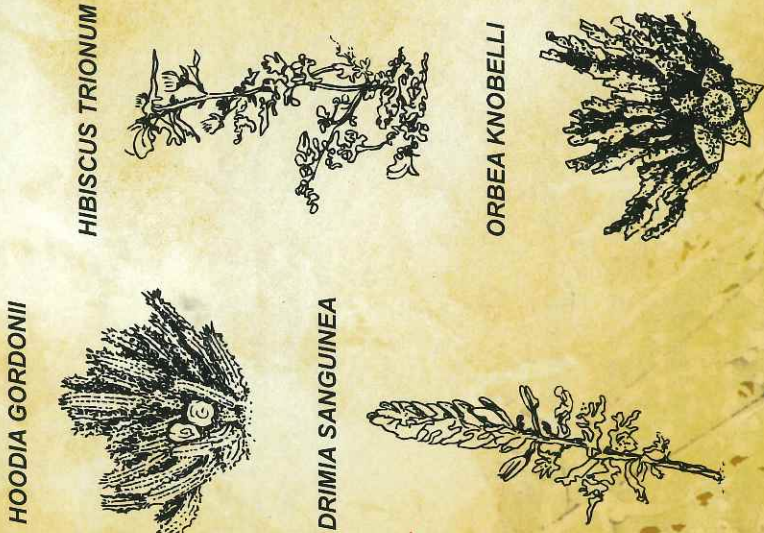
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OFFICIAL FIRST DAY COVER



Flowers of the Desert



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BotswanaPost would like to thank the artist, Ann Gollifer, the graphic designer, Irfan Kokabi, Sanitas botanist, Mr. Matthias Nilson, Botanical gardens Gaborone, and the Department of Forestry & Range Resources.

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FLOWERS OF THE DESERT

The "Kgalagadi" desert, which means "place of thirst," covers 15,000 square miles in and around the Kalahari region of Botswana, covering much of the country. This semi-arid desert supports a variety of indigenous desert flora which blossom into beautiful shows of blooms at various times of the year, especially during the wet seasons.

Hoodia gordonii – also known as "Bushmen's hat". Native to the Kalahari Desert of Southern Africa, the hoodia plant grows naturally in the drier Southwest region of Botswana and thrives in extremely high temperatures. This plant can be found amongst the tall grasses of the Makgadikgadi pans.



The Hoodia plant is a leafless, spiny, cactus-like succulent that can grow to a height of 1 meter. The flowers are saucer-shaped and pale purple to pink in colour. Its flowers bloom in groups near the stem apex. It has been used for thousands of years by the San people to ease hunger and thirst during long hunting trips. In recent years, the hoodia plant has gained popularity for its claims to suppress appetite.



Orbea knobelli – Also known as *Stapelia knobelli*. This rather rare plant is found amongst shrubs in deep Kalahari sand or on calcrete around pans. It develops underground rhizomes, with showy flowers and is drought resistant. The plant is named after the missionary Johan Christian Knobel who lived and traded in Molepolole, Botswana. It is sometimes grown as an ornamental succulent in pots or in rockeries.

Hibiscus trionum – known as "Flower of an Hour" because of its whitish flowers which will bloom for only a few hours before wilting.



It is a short lived perennial belonging to the mallow family (*Malvaceae*). Indigenous to Africa, Europe, and West Asia.

This plant was introduced to the United States as an ornamental. It has become naturalized as a weed of crop land and vacant land, particularly on disturbed land. It has been spread around the world due to its ornamental value.

Drimia sanguinea – This bulbous plant is a perennial with annual aerial parts. It belongs to the *Hyacinthaceae* family and is related to the asparagus plant. The bulb is deep red in colour and is highly poisonous. It grows in open veld and shrubby woodland in a variety of soil types. The *Drimia sanguinea* has now reached the status of "near-threatened" in Southern African regions due to its population decline in the last three generations (generation length 20 years). It has declined by 20-25% due to harvesting for the medicinal plant trade, especially for the Gauteng trade region in South Africa. Declines are expected to continue.



The Artist

Ann Gollifer is a prolific painter, printmaker, photographer and writer. Ann's practice is based on concepts that investigate identity and history both personal and collective.

Ann was part of the collective that ran the Thapong International Artists Workshops from 1991 to 2005 and was part of the executive committee that built the Thapong Visual Art Centre. Ann currently works from her studio in Gaborone.

She is shown internationally and her work can be found in public collections in London, New York, Johannesburg, Pretoria.

Technical Details

Printer:	Southern Colour Print, New Zealand
Artist:	Ann Gollifer
Graphic Designer:	Irfan Kokabi, Citizen Design (Pty) Ltd.
Process:	Four Colour Process
Sheet:	2 x 25 panes (178 mm x 254.49 mm (incl. 14mm selvedge))
Stamp Size:	30mm x 20mm
Denominations:	P1.00, P5.00, P7.00, P10.00
Paper Format:	103gsm, Tullis Russell High Reading Yellow/Green Phosphor Gummed Stamp Paper
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BotswanaPost Stamp Issuing Policy:

BotswanaPost maintains a conservative issuing policy. A definitive set is released every 5 years, illustrating the theme of international interest. Commemorative sets are normally issued 4 or 5 times per year, illustrating themes that reveal the environmental cultural and historical heritage of Botswana.