



Jane Levy Campbell

Vine Maple Time Lapse (*Acer Circulatum*)

Because the plant list and selection was given in the fall and the deadline was June, I began in early November with the colorful autumn form, my favorite. Though I often work from left to right to avoid dragging my right wrist over and smearing completed parts of a painting, I placed it on the right because I wanted it to “read” from left to right as if reading text as I usually do in my “Time Lapse” series.

In late February I moved to the left with the almost bare twigs just beginning to show green at the tips. Then in mid-April the flowers emerged and the leaves began to unfurl. I had never really paid much attention to this stage of growth, and found it quite lovely. One of the appealing things about botanical painting is that it teaches to you observe things more closely -- things that might otherwise go unnoticed.

It was a bit of a race against time against the June deadline to catch the summer phase of open green leaf with *Acer circinatum*'s unusual seed form of the paired seed samaras with their “wings” at nearly 180 degree angles from each other. Fortunately by late May they were ready to put right of center.

I love the way vine maples are equally at home in the nature landscape and the cultivated garden. As a painter, I love the way the reds and greens repeat throughout the seasons in changing proportion.

The image size is 15x22”, framed size 24x30”.