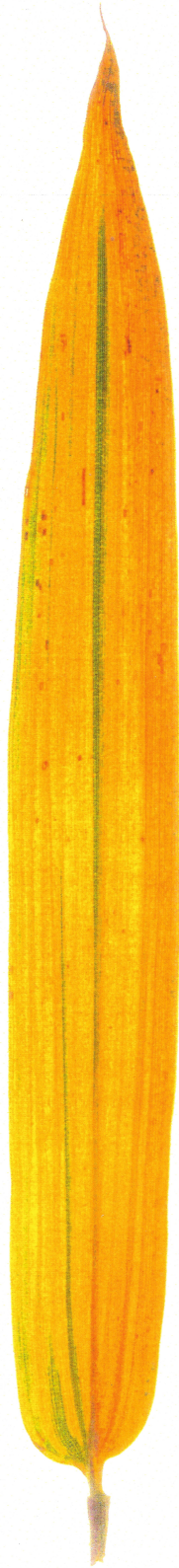


GRAMINEAE



The Grass Family

Garry Fabian Miller.

**The Consumption of Grasses,
Value and Beauty.**

A Proposal for Poltimore House, Devon.
The Centre for Contemporary Art and the Natural World.

c Garry Fabian Miller. 2000.

Gramineae. (The Grass Family)

The grass family is perhaps the most important plant family in the world. Its members, which number some ten thousand species, are the most economically influential flowering plants on this planet. They cover a third of the earth's surface and comprise one fifth of the earth's vegetation.

Their growth and trade sustain human life. They provide most of the food we eat in the form of cereals (wheat, rice, maize, barley, millets etc) and sugar (sugar cane) but also the food we feed cultivated animals.

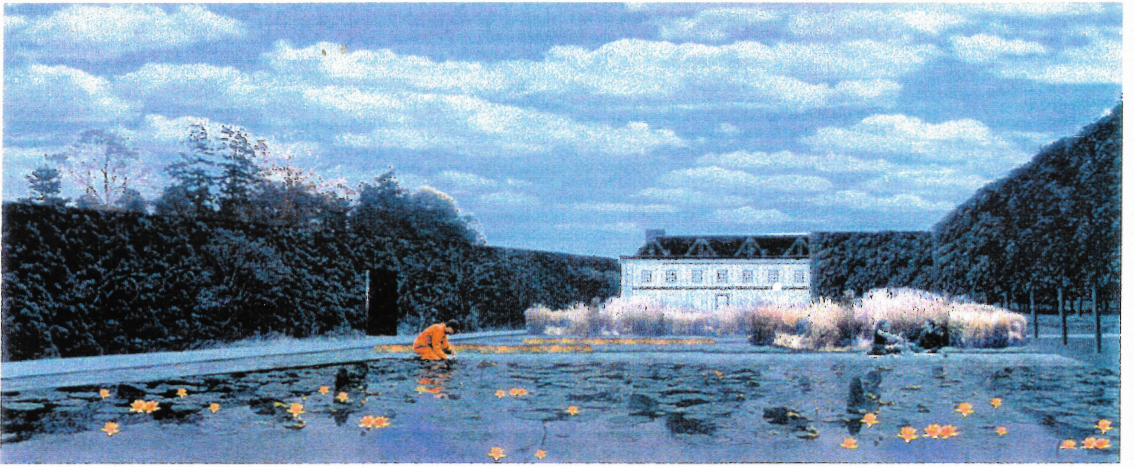
Their position of strength comes from this unique relationship with grazing animals and humans as well as the ability to withstand fire and drought.

Our relationship to the grass family has shaped human evolution and our ability to understand this dependence more fully will largely shape the future of human life on the planet. It is essential that it maintains its place across the earth, whilst also increasing its sites.

With the consequences of growing pollution and the changes to the climate caused by the depletion of the ozone layer, the ability of grasses to survive in the most inhospitable environments offers hope. Its adaptability and resistance to drought has led to its use in the recovery of polluted and desertified landscapes. This can be seen on the sites of Nitreous and Sulphur

industrial working in Poland, and in the recovery of over farmed and eroded land surfaces.

In my new work for CCANW I wish to consider both the beauty of grasses celebrated by Ruskin, whilst also focusing thought on their significance to human life. My piece will exist in two independent yet complimentary forms, a picture for the interior of Poltimore House and a grass garden for its grounds.



A Grass Garden, Poltimore House, Devon.
Garry Fabian Miller. Gross Max.