16. Braník Irises

The Brázdas also collaborated on illustrating educational books. In 1960, they worked on the publication Our Perennials (Naše trvalky). A year earlier, a single-page supplement to the magazine Rádce had already featured a beautiful illustration of irises. The estate of Věra and Pavel Brázda includes a folder of 17 hand-coloured drawings related to this supplement; titled Braník Irises, the collection also highlights a deep connection to the Novák family's past.

Věra's father, the lawyer Bohumil Novák, helped establish a collection of irises in Průhonice as a member of the dendrological society. Věra spent her childhood in a small villa in Braník, where her father created a beautiful garden with 150 kinds of irises – the very garden we can admire in this room in the posthumous portrait Father in the Garden (Tatíček v zahradě, 1955).

Irises appear twice in Pavel Brázda's early work – first in the 1942 watercolor Irises (Kosatce), and a year later in the coloured drawing Irises in a Tin (Kosatce v plechovce), where he combines flowers with a city in the background, bringing together nature and the urban folklore that fascinated him. Although vegetative motifs gradually disappeared from Brázda's work, they remained implicitly present in the colour palette of his paintings, which was inspired by the colours of flowers.