

TOM WUDL
immensities and infinities:
further specimens from the flowerbank world

On view at L.A. Louver: 2 June - 9 July, 2011
 Opening reception for the artist: Thursday, 2 June, 6-8 p.m.



Sea of Lotus Blossom Jewels, 2011, pencil, oil paint, silver leaf and pure 22K gold on vellum with collage elements, image: 7 x 11 in. (17.8 x 27.9 cm), sheet: 9 1/2 x 13 1/2 in. (24.1 x 34.3 cm)

Venice, CA – L.A. Louver is pleased to present new paintings by Los Angeles-based artist, **Tom Wudl**. This new body of work represents Wudl’s further exploration of the Avatamasaka Sutra (or Flower Ornament Sutra), a revered scripture of Huayan Buddhism. Earlier works by Wudl inspired by the sutra were first exhibited at L.A. Louver in *specimens from the flowerbank world*, November-December 2009.

There was a time when the world was small and man knew his place in it.... Today, space is expanding beyond the reaches of the imagination....we inhabit immensities and infinities that also inhabit us. I have attempted to make visible to the eye with brush and paint that which is still sacred to us and which by other minds and methods has been reconciled, encoded and stored in numbers and equations.

----- Tom Wudl

Wudl intends his new paintings to reflect -- rather than directly represent -- the rich content and powerful imagery of the Sutra. At the heart of ***Immensities and Infinities*** are four paintings- on vellum, each depicting flower blossoms. These works are modest in size (no more than 16 x 12 inches), but highly complex and richly detailed in their composition. A series of intimate flower studies (each less than 4 x 4 inches) accompany the larger compositions. Wudl paints roses, columbines and dahlias in oil, pencil, and gold and silver leaf on vellum with acuity and intricacy. Each flower is the vehicle for more complex iconography, and compositions include eyes, jewels and clubs. Indeed, the club motif, miniscule in scale and often barely visible to the naked eye, is present throughout all Wudl’s paintings. For Wudl, this motif represents the elaborate descriptions of phenomena that are characteristic of the Avatamsaka Sutra’s literary style, and its repetitious form reflects the Sutra’s primary purpose as an exhortation to meditation. As such, the motif becomes a visual mantra.



Universal Purity, 2010
oil, pencil, and silver leaf on vellum paper
image: 3 3/4 x 4 in. (9.5 x 10.2 cm)
paper: 12 x 11 in. (30.5 x 27.9 cm)



Jewel Peak Radiance, 2010
oil, pencil, and silver leaf on vellum paper
image: 3 3/4 x 3 15/16 in. (9.5 x 10 cm)
paper: 11 7/8 x 9 3/4 in. (30.2 x 24.8 cm)

Tom Wudl immigrated to the United States from Cochabamba, Bolivia in 1958. Beginning life in a new country at age ten, Wudl already knew that he wanted to become a painter. He attended Chouinard Art Institute, Los Angeles, but gained most of his skills and insight by his own study of late Medieval and early Renaissance paintings, and through independent travel to the art centers of Europe. Wudl has balanced his painting with a long career teaching art, and has held positions at Art Center College of Design, Pasadena; UCLA; UC Irvine; UC Santa Barbara; Claremont College; and Otis College of Art and Design, in addition to an extensive private teaching practice.

Wudl has exhibited his work in museums and galleries throughout the United States and abroad, including Documenta, Kassel (1972); Sezon Museum of Art, Tokyo, and Nagoya City Museum in Japan; the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; San Francisco Museum of Art; Pasadena Art Museum; and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

Wudl's painting will be included in *California Art: Selections from the Frederick R. Weisman Foundation* at the Frederick E. Weisman Museum of Art, Pepperdine University, August 20 – December 4, 2011, as part of the Getty initiative *Pacific Standard Time*.

Concurrently on view in L.A. Louver's second floor gallery and skyroom

Enrique Martínez Celaya: *Wormwood*

Sculpture, works on paper and a new painting.

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Hours Tuesday - Saturday 10am - 6pm,

Validated parking available, www.lalouver.com