

WIDEWALLS

L.A. Louver Brings together 50 Artists Who Have Embraced the Floral Motif



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[Hesper Cane](#)

Over the centuries, the role of the flower in art has been consistently changing, ranging from being imbued with powerful symbolism in ancient Egypt or Christianity to tumbling down to a decorative instrument. In its multiple redefinitions, Modern art took the chance to avenge the flower, most strikingly evident in the iconic paintings of Georgia O'Keeffe. Since then, the flower has flourished into an infinite source of inspiration and exploration.

It is exceptionally valued for its adaptable quality expressed in the ability to represent emotions and provide a basis for formal analysis.

Exploring the flower's legacy and future, **L.A. Louver** is celebrating the bloom of creativity in the upcoming exhibition, *The Flower Show*, investigating the motif in the works of over fifty artists.



Left: Rebecca Campbell – *Where Have You Been My Blue-Eyed Son?*, 2023 © Rebecca Campbell. Courtesy of L.A. Louver, Venice, CA. / **Right:** Penelope Gottlieb – *Colocasia esculenta*, 2023 © Penelope Gottlieb. Courtesy of the artist.

The Fate of the Flower

The Flower Show presents a comprehensive overview of the floral motif in historical and media terms, encompassing artworks from the early 19th century to the present. A more intense focus is set on contemporary arts providing a glimpse of the evolution of the flower and input into how the symbolism has changed over the centuries. A small portion of historical works is juxtaposed with contemporary commentaries in various media. Thus, the floral investigation is executed through painting, sculpture, drawing, photography, film, and digital technology.

The purpose of this juxtaposition is to demonstrate the elevation of the flower in contemporary art instigated by the dissolution of Western art history canons. At its height,

Academicism proscribed the hierarchy of genres, placing the still life on the lowest tier and dooming the flower as a device of artistic experiment. Furthermore, the flower was pronounced decorative, labeled as a "female" concept, and stripped of any deeper meaning that it might have had in the past. A revision of the importance of the flower occurred with Modern art, and the show intends to present its ongoing legacy.



Floral Analysis

The Flower Show explores the meaning and function of the flower in the works of **over fifty artists**, uncovering the multitude of issues emerging within one motif. Splendid botanical illustrations by Pançraçe Bessa and iconic works by Henri Matisse, Adolphe Monticelli, David Hockney, and Édouard Boubat will be juxtaposed with an extensive list of artists exploring the motif within different media, ensuring a variety of approaches. Among the fifty artists selected for the exhibition are Dion Johnson, Heather Gwen Martin, Patrick Martinez, Enrique Martinez Celaya, Tony Matelli, Ana Mendieta, Jiha Moon, Alison Saar, Don Suggs, teamLab, Dale Chihuly, Gaijin Fujita, Terry Allen, Tony Berlant, Paul Caponigro, Nick Cave, and Luis Gonzales Palma.



Tony Matelli – Weed, 2023 (right, front, and left view) © Tony Matelli. Courtesy of Tony Matelli Studio.

The Flower Show at L.A. Louver

The show is co-curated by **Elizabeth East**, L.A. Louver Director, whose text will appear in the online exhibition catalog, and the artworks will be displayed in all L.A. Louver gallery spaces. Concurrently, the flower motif will be further examined in *The Flower Show* at Peter Fetterman Gallery in Santa Monica, California, dedicated to photography.

The Flower Show will be on view at L.A. Louver in Venice, California, **from June 7th until September 1st, 2023.**

Featured image: Luis González Palma – La Rosa, 1989 © Luis González Palma. Courtesy of Peter Fetterman Gallery. All images are courtesy of L.A. Louver.

<https://www.widewalls.ch/magazine/la-louver-brings-flower-show>