

KUNSTHALLE MÜNCHEN

Press Release

FLOWERS FOREVER **Flowers in Art and Culture** **February 3 – August 27, 2023**

To humans and nature alike, flowers are of immense importance. *Flowers Forever* is the first comprehensive exhibition dedicated to the art and cultural history of the flower from antiquity to the present. With paintings, sculptures, photographs, design, fashion, interactive media installations, and scientific objects, the Kunsthalle München presents a fascinating, thematically organized, and elaborately staged exhibition parcours addressing the role of flowers in art and science, in mythology and religion, as well as in literature, politics, economy, and ecology.

The presentation comprises around one hundred and seventy works from international collections as well as installations created especially for the exhibition. Important examples from the histories of art and design enter into a fruitful dialog with new artistic approaches. The exhibition features works by Jan Brueghel the Younger, Abraham Mignon, Barbara Regina Dietzsch, Lawrence Alma-Tadema, Hannah Höch, Andreas Gursky, Miguel Chevalier, Ann Carrington, Patricia Kaersenhout, Kehinde Wiley, Studio Drift, and many other artists. They all bring the multifaceted cultural history of flowers to life in impressive ways.

Flowers as a source of inspiration

Art and science have always inspired one another when depicting flowers. Scientific research findings in the natural sciences were provided with illustrations as artistic as they were precise. The study of the manifold manifestations of flowers from all over the world in turn inspired artists to floral creations that went far beyond the purely botanical representation. They reflect the relationship between art, nature, and science and at the same time celebrate the splendor and diversity of floral shapes and colors.

From sacred lotus to the Carnation Revolution

Flowers have always held great symbolic power for us humans—be it in mythology and religion, in art and literature or in politics. The fact that the symbols vary from region to region and have repeatedly changed over the centuries indicates that people have always attributed the most diverse meanings to flowers. Among other things, they stand for life and its transience, are used as a sign of friendship or love in interpersonal communication or represent power and resistance in politics and society.

The value of flowers

With the tulip mania in the Netherlands, the trade in flowers became a major speculative business for the first time in the 17th century, as evidenced by highly artistic furniture and vases, but also

satirical paintings. Today, both floriculture and trade have long been organized globally, which prompts artists to deal with ecological and social issues. They confront us with our consumer behavior and address the effects of human activity on the environment. This is also the case with the installation *Calyx* by British artist Rebecca Louise Law (*1980), which was created as a joint project and forms the grand finale of the parcours, comprising some 200,000 dried flowers.

Featured among others are: Jan Brueghel the Younger (1601–1678), Abraham Mignon (1640–1679), Barbara Regina Dietzsch (1706–1783), Johann Joachim Kaendler (1706–1775), Dante Gabriel Rossetti (1828–1882), Lawrence Alma-Tadema (1836–1912), Émile Gallé (1846–1904), Hannah Höch (1889–1978), Owanto (*1953), Andreas Gursky (*1955), Ai Weiwei (*1957), Tamiko Thiel (*1957), Miguel Chevalier (*1959), Ann Carrington (*1962), Patricia Kaersenhout (*1966), Kehinde Wiley (*1977), Kapwani Kiwanga (*1978), Viktor&Rolf (founded in 1993), Studio Drift (founded in 2007) and many more. The exhibition is accompanied by a comprehensive and richly illustrated publication that continues the interdisciplinary approach in three extensive interviews with international experts from botany, art, culture, literature, and business and grants inspiring insights into the cultural history of flowers. In addition, short texts illuminate the background stories to selected exhibits.

The exhibition is organized by the Kunsthalle München in collaboration with the [musée des impressionnismes Giverny](#). It also became the starting point of the city-wide [Flower Power Festivals Munich 2023](#).

With around 300,000 visitors every year, the **Kunsthalle München** is one of Germany's most prestigious exhibition houses. Located at the heart of Munich, the Kunsthalle stages three large exhibitions a year on a variety of themes. Equipped with state-of-the-art museum technology, the approximately 1,200 m² exhibition space is a respected platform for artworks representing a variety of genres from painting, sculpture, graphic art, photography and crafts, through to design and fashion. The Kunsthalle München's diverse program alternates monographic exhibitions with thematic projects, yet also includes interdisciplinary concepts.

Celebrating nature in the city—this is the motto of next year's **Flower Power Festival Munich 2023**, which will take place from February 3 to October 7. The Kunsthalle München, the Gasteig (Europe's largest cultural center), the Botanical Garden Munich-Nymphenburg, and BIOTOPIA – Naturkundemuseum Bayern are the initiators of this city-wide festival, which everyone is invited to participate in, from large institutions to small associations, renowned cultural institutions to private initiatives.

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As of: November 9, 2022

SELECTION OF PRESS IMAGES

More images and download: www.kunsthalle-muc.de/en/press_area/flowers-forever



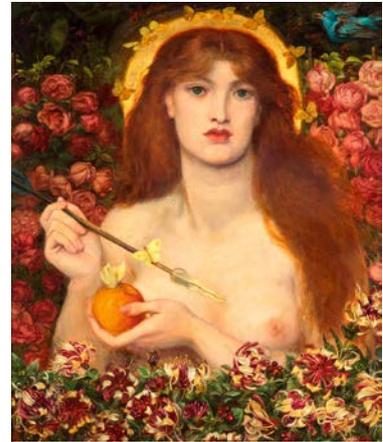
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- 1 Miguel Chevalier, *Extra-Natural* (Installation view), 2021, Software Cyrille Henry & Antoine Villeret, © Miguel Chevalier, VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn 2022
- 2 Rebecca Louise Law, *Community* (Installation view), 2018, Toledo Museum of Art, Ohio, USA, © Rebecca Louise Law
- 3 Jan Brueghel t. Y., *Satire of Tulipomania*, 1640, oil on panel, 31 x 49 cm, Frans Hals Museum, Haarlem, purchased with the support of the Rembrandt Society, photo: Tom Haartsen
- 4 Dante Gabriel Rossetti, *Venus Verticordia*, 1864–1868, oil on canvas, 81,3 x 68 cm, Russell-Cotes Art Gallery & Museum
- 5 Kehinde Wiley, *Portrait of a Florentine Nobleman III*, 2019, oil on canvas, 142 x 112 cm, Collection Vilsmeier – Linhares, Munich, © Kehinde Wiley. Courtesy of the artist and Stephen Friedman Gallery, London
- 6 Unknown (Egypt), *Stele of Nena* (detail), c. 1300 B.C., limestone, 77 x 51 x 9 cm, Staatliches Museum Ägyptischer Kunst, München, ÄS 51, photo: Roy Hessing

KUNSTHALLE MÜNCHEN

OPENING HOURS

daily 10 am–8 pm | for Afterwork^{KH} on **15.2., 15.3., 19.4., 17.5., 21.6., 19.7.2023**: 10 am–10 pm |

Special opening hours for school groups:

each wednesday 9 am–10 am, by appointment only: kontakt@kunsthalle-muc.de

DIRECTOR

Roger Diederer

EXHIBITION CURATORS

Roger Diederer and Franziska Stöhr

EXHIBITION DESIGN

Martin Kinzmaier (stage and exhibition designer)

PRESS ENQUIRIES

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PRESS IMAGES FOR DOWNLOAD

www.kunsthalle-muc.de/en/press_area/flowers-forever

ADMISSION FEE

Standard: € 16 | **Reduced fees:** Senior citizens (60+): € 14 | Students (< 30 years) and unemployed: € 8 | Young people (6–18 years): € 2 | Children under 6: free of charge | School classes: € 2 per pupil (pre-booked) | Family pass for 2 adults and their (grand-)children (< 18 years): € 30 | On tuesdays 50% discount on all admission fees (except 15.8.).

AUDIO TOUR

A **free audio tour** for the exhibition is available and can be accessed from home and in the exhibition with your own mobile device (www.kunsthalle-muc.de/en/flowers-forever).

GUIDED TOURS

Guided tours for groups: guided tours in languages other than German: Mon, Wed–Fr: 10 am–8 pm, Sat: 10 am–1 pm by appointment only: kontakt@kunsthalle-muc.de

ACCOMPANYING PROGRAMME (SUMMARY)

»Re-Act!« Harry Klein goes Kunsthalle, Afterwork^{KH} evenings and **lectures**. Furthermore there will be **curator's tours, public tours and tours for children**. Updated information: www.kunsthalle-muc.de

CATALOG

Accompanying the exhibition Prestel Verlag publishes an extensive catalog with ca. 275 color illustrations. Edited by Roger Diederer and Franziska Stöhr, with essays by Andreas Beyer, Michael John Gorman, Gudrun Kadereit, Isabel Kranz, Inger Leemans, Randy Malamud, Silke Peters, D. Fairchild Rugges.

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www.kunsthalle-muc.de



Exhibition partner



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