



Gallery  
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# BLOOM

*Curated by Rula Jones*

Friday, June 18th, 2021 - Sunday, September 5th, 2021

**Opening Reception:  
Saturday, July 10th, 2021  
7 pm to 9 pm**

**Online Artist Zoom Talk:  
Sunday, August 8th, 2021  
1 pm to 2 pm**

115 E Church St, Frederick, MD 21701

## *Participating Artists*

Karin Birch

Roberto Bocci

Craig Cavin

Travis Childers

Nicole Cohen

Gay P. Cox

Stephen Dill

Jennie Gallaine

Weina Li

Sheryl Massaro

Jessye McDowell

Tim McLoraine

Patricia O'Brien

Lisa Sheirer

Michelle Sakhai

David Straange

Katherine Verdickt

Cathy Wilkin

*“Keep your face always toward the sunshine - and shadows will fall behind you.”*

— *Walt Whitman*

Nature is a timeless and global theme, present in all of the arts and indeed our lives for as long as humans have inhabited the planet. As the seasons and ages pass, all elements in nature are born, quicken, then die and then are born again, a relentless and persistent cycle, indifferent to the tragedies and joys of humans.

Yet, it is quite clear that we, as humans, acknowledge that we share this mysterious cycle with the planet and the universe. We see this not just in our own mortality but also in relationships, in projects, in places and empires. It surrounds us and we are beholden to it. And yet, there is always the bloom, the promise of rebirth and hope, whether perceived in our present reality or not. It is always there, even in the darkest “winters” of our lives, not because we are naive fantasists but because, very simply, nature tells us it is so.

We draw from nature, as it draws from us, not just because we see ourselves as an analogy to it, as if it was some separate entity, a shadowy imposition, to be culled, calculated and controlled as some of us perceive , but because we are a part of it, inseparable and entirely.

The artists in this exhibition have a kinship to nature and express it through a variety of ways. They recreate it through direct observation or memory, utilize it as a metaphor for narratives of the present and past, declare their absolute oneness with it, know it as a spiritual pathway or convey it through artifice to allude to our species' superficiality.

Rather than go into an analysis about the artists' work, I allow the artists to speak for themselves in the following pages. I leave the criticism to the critic and exist as a benevolent medium that simply seeks to bring together and amplify the creative voice of others.

- Rula Jones, May 30th, 2021

“The Incompleteness of  
Everything”

Karin Birch

Hand embroidery, beadwork and  
acrylic paint on linen

2018

14" x 17"

\$5000



“Down the Rabbit Hole with  
a Typhoon”

Karin Birch

Hand embroidery, beadwork  
and acrylic paint on linen

2018

30" x 30"

\$6,000



**“Flower forms are used as symbols of hope, fragility and impermanence.”**

**- Karin Birch**



“Coronam Florem 5/23”

Roberto Bocci

Photograph

2020

20” x 20”

\$800



“Coronam Florem 5/06”

Roberto Bocci

Photograph,

2020,

20” x 20”

\$800



**“In Corona Florem, flowers buds and blooms are shot underwater and left to decay. The camera is used to document the biological process of decay and transformation that the flowers undergo over time. The title of the work is the date when the image was shot and the flower type. As other works of mine Florem explores sexuality, cycles of birth, growth, decay and the effects of the elements on biological life.”**

**-Roberto Bocci**

“New Orange Orchids”

Craig Cavin

2020

48” x 48”

Oil on Canvas

\$800



“Appalachian Springs”

Craig Cavin

Acrylic on Canvas

2020

48" X 48"

\$750



**“The paintings reflect opening and blooming, the rebirth of beauty in nature from the darkness of winter.”**

**- Craig Cavin**



“Vegetation 3”

Travis Childers

Stretched and shaped  
cotton sheet, images of  
plant life cut out of  
newspaper, gel medium.

2021

7" x 3" x 3"

\$500



“Vegetation 4”

Travis Childers

Stretched cotton over wood  
structure, images of plant life  
cut out of newspapers, gel  
medium.

16" x 12" x 3"

\$600





“It Always Grows”

Travis Childers

Architectural tree, styrofoam ball,  
paint, filament wire.

2020

8" x 3" x 3"

\$300



**“These pieces deal with the way we interact with nature and document it.”**

**- Travis Childers**

“Time Lapse”

Nicole Cohen

Video Work: “Time Lapse”,  
3:00, seamless loop, sound  
(Classical composition,  
Chopin)

2015

\$5,000



**“Time Lapse” is a video work inspired by a Van Huysum’s painting, “Fruit Piece”, which he created from looking at the natural objects in front of him and then adding them into the composition. He waited for the right time of year, when they were in full bloom flowers and ripe fruit and placed them in the composition as the year progressed.**

**When I lived in Los Angeles I gave tours in the Education Department at the Getty (2000-3), I always loved to show the visitors this painting in their collection. I found it incredibly creative that today we look at it as a full image, however the parts were made over a year and it represents the changing and rebirth of each season. Since this was Van Huysum’s way to “photoshop” the seasons in, I have wanted to make a video for a long time using new media to show how the seasons appeared in the painting. It is a still life composition yet, it is so dynamic if you look closely you can see insects eating away at the fruit. What struck me is how it looks beautiful from a distance and then closely it appears to be decaying and molding away. It always felt like a video still to me, as I was catching the bugs in action and should shew them away!**

**In my video, parts of the painting will be illuminated and move (through animation and light) to bring to life the circular process of this arrangement. In addition, I am creating a video portrait of the seasons from the window in the Bronx and use this as the background from Fall to Winter to Spring. I created a video diary of the seasons. This time lapse will be in the background of the new video work. Both movements in the background and foreground will work together to activate the Dutch masterpiece.’**

**- Nicole Cohen**

“Spring Birth of Trees”

Gay P. Cox

Oil on Canvas

2020

48” x 48”

\$4,600



**“This painting is a part of a series that evokes the energy and mystery of creative forces in our world. Abundance and generosity are at the heart of all of them as I imagine this world and the cosmos filled with light and life - blooming into being!”**

**- Gay P. Cox**

“Swamp”  
Stephen Dill  
Forged Steel  
2016  
20" x 26" x 7"  
\$780



“Triple Day Lily”

Stephen Dill

Forged Steel

2019

30" x 11.5" x 10.5"

\$330





*“These works are inspired by the Mid-Atlantic swamps which bloom from Spring until Fall. ”*

**- Stephen Dill**

“U7”

Jennie Gallaine

Oil on linen

2020

55” x 40”

\$3,600



**“I am a French artist and I moved to the United States two years ago. To find inspiration again in my work, I had to establish new roots and find a new sense of place. I realized that my art had changed here and was guided by nature. Maybe because it was the first thing that came to me to link my previous life and my new life. Something essential, pure and simple. Something universal. Enveloping and reassuring. Something that we also need to preserve... And something that could help me take root and bloom again”**

**- Jennie Gallaine**

“I will breathe like grass”

Weina Li

Sculpture

2021

10” x 10” x 10”

\$350



“You are the Star/ Distance  
Between Us”

Weina Li

2021

Telescope stand, kaleidoscope,  
reducing lenses, Swarovski  
crystals, film papers, acrylic,  
lights

50” x 35”

\$900



**“I give my language back to nature and let the work grow its own meaning, like flowers and trees.”**

**- Weina Li**

“Pollen”

Sheryl Massaro

Oil on Canvas

38” x 14”

2021

NFS.



**“I endeavor to tap into and convey life’s undertow which, to me, is the unspoken, unseen energy that brings close and binds artists and their viewers.”**

**- Sheryl Massaro**



“Future Sets Series:  
After Huysum”  
Jessye McDowell,  
Digital print of 3D modeled  
image  
2021  
32.5" x 39"  
\$2,500



“Future Sets Series:  
Between Small Creatures Lie  
Vast Distances”

Jessye McDowell

Digital print of 3D modeled  
image

31.5" x 40"

2018

\$2,500



**“Future Sets uses CGI technology to draw connections between 17th Century Dutch flower painting and contemporary cultural questions surrounding technology and representation. The “original” paintings ostensibly captured bouquets of flowers at the height of their beauty; moments later, the blooms would fade with all the weighty moral implications of the vanitas, foreshadowed by the tiny dramas of destruction played out by insect inhabitants. The works in Future Sets extend the problems of still life into the virtual Anthropocene. The artifice involved in the illusion is on display, but the ambiguity that infuses the image reflects the increasing fluidity of cultural categories of representation: Is it real or fake? Is it beautiful, banal, or horrible? Is it in full bloom or in decline?”**

**-Jessye McDowell**

“Cinderbiter”

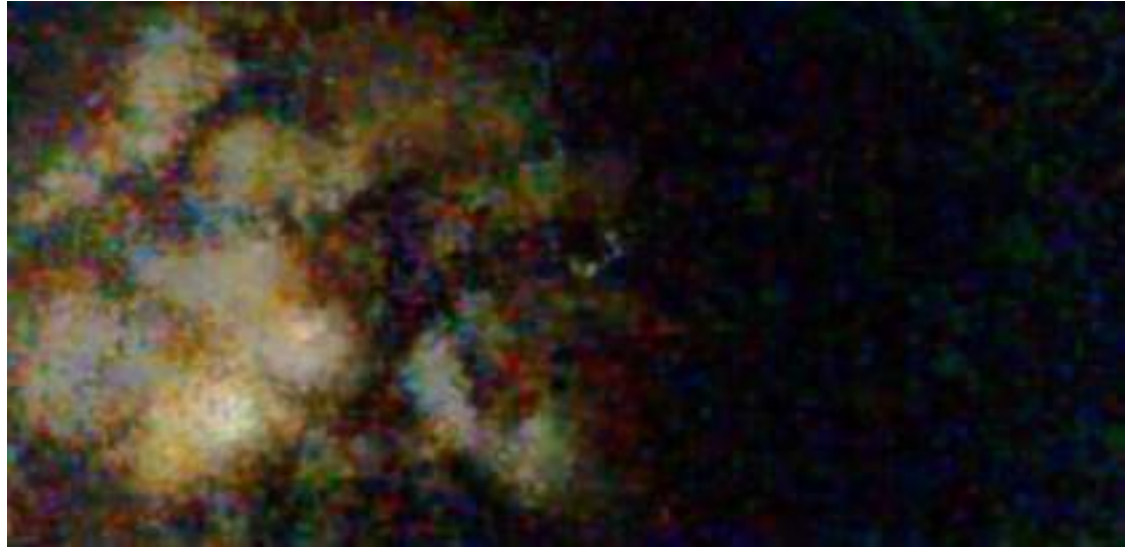
Tim McLoraine

Single channel video

loop.

2019

\$1,600



**“*Cinderbiter* speaks to the time before the bloom - the time of dormancy or unseen work. The possibility of the bloom is alluded to through the movement and colors of the pixels. Starkad, an 11th century cinderbiter, spent many years in the ashes. When finally called to expedition, he cleaned himself up and became a powerful warrior and poet who was remembered through the sagas of old.”**

**-Tim McLoraine**

“A Good Day”  
Patricia O'Brien  
Oil on Canvas  
20" x 16"  
2021  
\$365



**“In “A Good Day,” flowers are created as a means to interpret the range of emotions and musings which bloom and weave through the mind during the course of a day. They are brilliant, withered, exuberant, dwarfed and more. Like our thoughts, they link together as their colors burst and fade into each other; animating the unseen.”**

**- Patricia O'Brien**



“This Way”  
Michelle Sakhai  
Oil and Metal Leaf on  
Canvas  
48” x 48”  
2021  
\$14,000





**“Nature taught me to become the colorist I am today and how to express the movement of light. My art is frequently inspired by the floral that symbolize re-growth and renewal.”**

**- Michelle Sakhai**

“Stratum #34”  
Lisa Sheirer  
Ink Painting on Yupo  
36" x 26"  
2021  
\$950



“Stratum #25”

Lisa Sheirer

Ink Painting on Yupo

30” x 36.5”

2021

\$600



**“The Stratum Series is new in 2021. Paintings are executed with alcohol inks on Yupo. These inks have helped me to loosen up. The inks bloom and move making them hard to control - just what I needed to take the anxiety out of beginning to paint again after 35 years.**

**The Covid Pandemic has caused me to be hiking and walking in the surrounding woods more than ever. I'm walking in and looking at the landscapes of Western Maryland. The scenery is imprinted upon my memory and the paintings are executed from these memories.”**

**- Lisa Sheirer**



“Crystal”

David Straange

Acrylic/rocks on canvas,

16” x 20”

2020

Price on Request



“Cycle”

David Strange

Acrylic/rocks on canvas, 2020

16” x 20”

Price on Request



**“The work explores the life cycle using earth materials. The bloom is in the alchemy.”**

**- David Strange**

“Funeral Wreath”  
Katherine Verdickt  
Graphite on Paper  
2021  
60” x 38”





**“Flowers are the ultimate vanitas. Blooming flowers reminds us of the fragile and transient nature of life. Funeral Wreath is a gesture of sympathy and condolence for those in mourning. We are still in this pandemic and we are all grieving. This drawing is a reaction to product images on 1800flowers.com. American floral aesthetics are impersonal and commercial. Oversaturated stock photos and cliché titles feign sincerity: Healing Tears, Sincerest Sorrow, Heartfelt Farewell, and Cherished Memories. In order to create a unique wreath with integrity and symbolic meaning, I collaborated with florist Nicole Absher and drew from her creation.”**

**-Katherine Verdickt**

“Another Bourbon  
Please”

Cathy Wilkin

Mixed Media

2020

30" x 34"

\$1500



“Sunday Brunch”  
Cathy Wilkin  
Mixed Media  
2019  
32" x 44"  
\$1500



**“*Another Bourbon* is all about the lightness of spirit and the giddiness of spring. It's one of those treasured memories when the world is mellow, perfumed and filled with giggles.**

***Sunday Brunch* speaks to the phrase, "It doesn't get any better than this." It's one of those magical moments in life when everything is kaleidoscopic, lush and delicious and you wish it would never end.”**

**- Cathy Wilkin**

*“In the midst of winter, I found there was, within me, an invincible summer.”*

— **Albert Camus**



Gallery 115, Y Arts Center  
YMCA OF FREDERICK COUNTY  
115 E Church St, Frederick, MD 21701