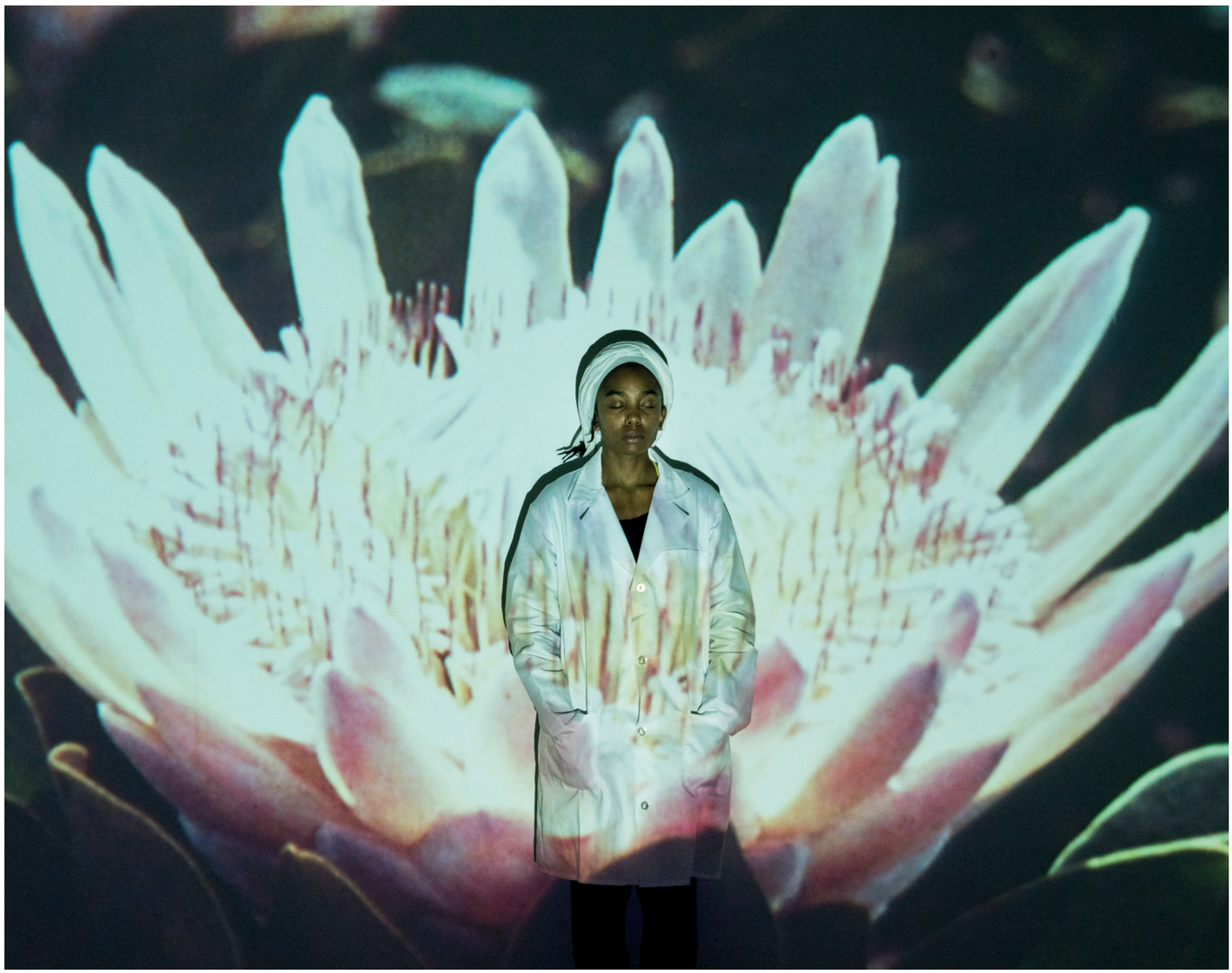
Biennale
des Arts
de Nice



Uriel Orlow, *Botanical Dreams* (détail), 2006 - Tirage numérique sur papier - Courtesy de l'artiste & mor charpentier, Paris - © Uriel Orlow / ADAGP, Paris, 2022

MAMAC

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BECOMING FLOWER

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Zheng Bo, *Pteridophilia 1*, 2016 - 4K video, color, sound - Running time: 17'00"
With the support of TheCube Project Space / Villa Vassilieff / Pernod Ricard Fellowship - Courtesy de l'artiste & galerie Kiang Malingue, Hong Kong

Could you "become a flower"? As the upheaval of ecosystems and climate leads us to rethink our relationship to nature and the living world, what can we learn from flowers, their resilience, their constant adaptation to their environment, their sober approach? Vulnerable and essential, they're an essential engine of life: they produce the food that humans, animals and insects consume and the oxygen we breathe.
With scientific advances in plant intelligence and a new approach to life, their fascination continues to grow – far beyond simple aesthetic pleasure. Symbols of fragility and rebirth, they become a particularly powerful marker to shed light on current issues.
Through the eyes of artists, women and men of twenty different nationalities, «Devenir fleur» sets out to shed new, sensitive light on contemporary ecological, anthropological and geopolitical subjects. The exhibition brings out a botany of world history, as well as new forms of attention, sensitivities, thoughts.
Following in the wake of the exhibition «Cosmogonies. Au gré des éléments» (Cosmogonies. At the discretion of the elements - MAMAC, summer 2018), which composed an ode to the invention of art co-created with nature from Yves Klein to Thu Van Tran, «Devenir fleur» summarises the forms of listening that artists, since the 1960s, have maintained with plants. And so, a new language was sown.
As such, agapanthus, peony, flax and jasmine, dandelion, Damascus rose, peacock and banana flower, create a surge of resistance, solidarity and communion: of becoming a flower.
This exhibition is part of the «Flowers!» biennial, which falls under the general curatorship of Jean-Jacques Aillagon and marks the end of a season run in 11 museums and institutions in the city of Nice.

Hélène Guenin & Rébecca François
Exhibition Curators

BEING FLOWER

The exhibition opens with a sensitive journey through the plant world with the cinematic exploration of a garden rustling with life and a collection of dried flowers, weavings and plant prints. This florarium of weeds, wild, curative or endemic plants* invites us to look at flowers differently: as living beings and not as symbolic or decorative objects. To suit their picking, artists develop an awareness of the plant world.
This ode to sensitive life gives rise to attempts at communion with the plant kingdom. Rituals are experienced through filmed performances. Dreams of grafting, hybridisation and fusion are sketched out in drawings, photographs and sculptures. Carnal desires blossom in images.
By detaching themselves from an anthropocentric (human-centered) vision, artists reinvent their relationship to living plants in order to look for a form of reciprocity and equality with nature.
** specific to a particular geographical region*

GARDENS OF METAMORPHOSIS

Pickings and hybridisations open up supernatural landscapes invented by artists. By inverting, accelerating or fixing the natural cycle of flowers, artists manipulate living things, modifying flowering, colours and lights. These immersive gardens of acclimation, with their surreal colours and enchanting smells, evoke rites and memories. They poetically underline the human influence on living plants -which has accelerated dramatically during the 20th century-, and our fantasy of dominating nature. These dreamlike, demiurgic landscapes are followed by a botanical cabinet of «toxic and heroic*» flowers. Witnesses and victims of environmental, natural or human disasters, these flowers silently embody the possible contaminations and extinctions, as much as they exult in the strength of the living, its capacity for repairs and resilience.
** Expression borrowed from a series of works by Marinette Cueco*

BOTANY OF POWER

Witnesses of natural and human history, of movements and nomadism, flowers illustrate in spite of themselves a «botany of power*».
The development of modern botany is closely linked, over the centuries, to the discovery of new territories and the process of colonisation. Through flowers and plants here employ, artists embody the scars and legacies of the past as well as the intensive and unreasonable exploitation of the land and summon these memories with restorative gestures.
The interlinked effects of current climate changes, wars and globalisation are evoked through a variety of artistic propositions. The notions of injury, disappearance and care run through these investigations which reveal the complexity of contemporary geopolitical power relations.
Faced with the urgency of the degradation of ecosystems, many voices are being raised today to remind us that humans are one species among others in the multitude of life forms that inhabit the Earth and to call for a reconnection with nature.
**Yto Barrada*

—
Melanie Bonajo, *Matrix Botanica - Biosphere above Nations,* 2013
Vidéo – Running time: 22'26
Courtesy de l'artiste & galerie AKINCI, Amsterdam

—
Nona Inescu, *Brugmansia,* 2021
Archival Pigment Print on Canson Platine Fibre Rag
Courtesy de l'artiste & galerie SpazioA, Pistoia

30 artists from various **countries** are invited. The works of art on display date from **1957 to the present day**. The first room of the exhibition is a j**ourney** into the world of **plants.** Artists collect flowers to **create** their works of art. Artists invent **relationships** in which humans and nature are one. In this second room, artists invent **strange and imaginary gardens**. The artists create **experiences with flowers**. The artists show that flowers are strong. Flowers have the power to withstand disasters. In this third room, works of art present **plants' journey through history**.
The artists show the **effects of the past** on plants, landscapes and human bodies.

ASSOCIATED PROGRAMME

Saturday 3 December from 11AM to 4PM

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DISABLED PERSONS

In partnership with the Nice Mission handicap.
LSF guided tour, fragrance and tasting workshop inspired by the exhibition.
Show "Le dîner de famille" with the Saint-Dalmas-de-Tende Prieuré and the Cie Embrayage à Paillettes.

Friday 9 December from 7PM to 12AM

#REMIX TA CULTURE

Students from every field of studies offer original mediations inspired by the museum's artworks during a night opening with the partnership of Université Côte d'Azur.

Saturday 4 February at 5PM

TRAJECTOIRES FESTIVAL

Pluridisciplinary festival created by Carros Forum Jacques Prévert on life stories from 12 January to 11 February 2023. Dance performance "SYSTÈMES" by and with Joël Assebako & Karel Kouelany, artistic direction Michael Allibert.

Saturday 25 February at 4PM

SHOW for all ages

Pluridisciplinary shows' programme, offering a new perspective on the exhibition's artworks.
Dance fantasy "Les petites graines» by Cie Reveida with Delphine Pouilly and Benoit Berrou on Rémy Masséglia's footage. Free. Reservation only. From age 5 and up.

March 2023

MARCH IN MUSEUMS

Pluridisciplinary event organised by the city of Nice and Université Côte d'Azur. Programme created by Master 2 Evénementiel, Médiation et Ingénierie de la Culture d'Université Côte d'Azur students.

Saturday 18 March

IT'S SPRING TIME!
WOMEN ON STAGE FESTIVAL at 4PM

Pluridisciplinary festival for International Women's Day from 8 to 19 March.
Dance performance inspired by the exhibition with Emmanuelle Pépin and Amal Alnabwany.

MUSIC FOR PLANTS from 6PM to 11PM

Cocktails, tales, performance and concert by Arnaud Maguet.

Friday 7 April at 7PM

DINER – PERFORMANCE "Eating flowers"

At the Lycée des métiers hôtellerie-tourisme Paul Augier with the partnership of the Amis du MAMAC. Project 100% Education artistique et culturelle
Paid diner and reservation at:
lesamisdumamac@gmail.com

Thursday 13 April at 4PM

ARTISTIC ET CULTURAL EDUCATION PROJECTS

Co-valleys project Vésubie / Roya "De la graine à la fleur" with: Valdeblore Lycée polyvalent de montagne, Sospel Collège Jean Médecin, Breil-sur-Roya Collège de l'Eau Vive and Saint-Dalmas de Tende Collège des Merveilles. In collaboration with the DAAC, teachers and artists Aurore Emaille and Rémy Masséglia.
Project 100% Artistic and cultural education

Saturday 22 April at 4PM

SHOW for all ages

Pluridisciplinary shows' programme, offering a new perspective on the exhibition's artworks.
Garden comedy "Narcisse et les miroirs" by Cie BAL.
Free. Reservation only. From age 5 and up.

BEING FLOWER, KEEP IT GOING!

From 1st to 4 June
Promenade du Paillon, square Leclerc.

FESTIVAL ARTISTIQUE POUR LES ÉCOLES - FAPE

"Nature at work" with Academy of Nice schools and artists Camille Franch-Guerra, Ève Pietruschi.
Exhibition of the artistic projects created all year long, with the collaboration of Mission EAC 06 inspired by the exhibition.
Project 100% Artistic and cultural education

Saturday 13 May at 4PM

MUSEUM NIGHT & LA CLASSE, L'ŒUVRE

"Listening to nature" Nice primary schools' students offer to listen to urban flora thanks to sound recording and musical creations with the artist and musician Romina Romay.
"Playing with art and science" with the Contes Collège Roger Carlès 5th Patrimoine's students.
Project 100% Education artistique et culturelle

All along of the exhibition

CINEMA.

Short films, animated films, cine-concert or outdoor screening, with the partnership of La Bande Passante collective, wishing to create a collective space of broadcasting, training and production dedicated to still and moving footage and sounds.
Follow the programme at www.labandepassante.net

WORKSHOPS AND GUIDED TOURS

> Môm'Art for children: Wednesdays from 3PM to 4:30PM
Experiment the artistic practices associated with the exhibition while learning new techniques: paper-made flowers or plants, observation drawing or herbariums.
€8.50 per participant per session. All activities are subject to a minimum of two participants. From age 6 and up.

> Môm'Art with family: Saturdays from 11AM to 12:30PM
Share a family time during creative workshops to experiment creating flowers in every technique: clay, paper or natural pigments!
€8.50 per participant per session. All activities are subject to a minimum of two participants. From age 5 and up.

> Family playful tours: First Wednesday of each month from 11AM to 12:30PM. Learn and play with the museum's artists' artworks and techniques. Free for children under 13. €6.20 per participant + admission ticket. From age 5 and up.

> Individuals: Every Saturday at 3PM in French and at 4PM in English. Free for children under 13. €6.20 for tour + price of admission. Duration: 1 hour. No reservation required.

> Schools and Groups: From Tuesday to Friday, offer your students a cultural-discovery trip. During the school holidays, we welcome centres and associations! Guided tour with or without workshops. During the school holidays, we welcome leisure centres and associations! Free for groups in the metropolitan area, €21 for groups outside of the metropolitan area and €85 for groups of 14-30 adults. Duration: 1 to 1.5 hours.

> Teachers of all levels: Take advantage of training courses and events dedicated to National Education teachers, in partnership with the DAAC and project officers. Free upon request.

THE TOOLBOX

Complement your visit with a treasure hunt, a game booklet for the 6&12yo or an educational booklet.
Free upon request. Available to download from our website under Tours & Workshops / Toolbox.
FALC – Easy read. Created by the public department in collaboration with Trisomie 21 association. Available to download from our website under Tours & Workshops / Toolbox.

S'aMusée throughout the holidays

> Môm'Art courses for children!
- From 14 to 17 February from 2PM to 4PM.
Veget'art ! Bring back the colours from nature in your home with 4 days of creative workshops!
- From 25 to 27 April from 2PM to 4PM. In collaboration with the Nice Muséum d'histoire naturelle. Learn the history and technique of the herbarium and create your own accomplished herbalist's book.
€8.50 per participant per session. All activities are subject to a minimum of two participants. From age 6 and up.

> WORKSHOP ARTY in February!
Cyanotypes workshops with artist Kit Cyanotype.
22 and 23 February from 2PM to 4PM.
€8.50 per participant per session. All activities are subject to a minimum of two participants. From age 7 and up.

> WORKSHOP ARTY in April!
- Tapestry workshops with artist Delphine Dénéréaz.
2 days on the first week of Easter holidays from 2PM to 4PM.
€8.50 per participant per session. All activities are subject to a minimum of two participants. From age 7 and up.
- "Writing, poetry and songs" with artist Ma Saïsara.
28 and 29 April from 2PM to 4PM – Exhibition on 29 April at 5PM.
€8.50 per participant per session. All activities are subject to a minimum of two participants. From age 8 and up.

> Story time sessions with Camille Chrétien from the «Ateliers Illustrés». Wednesdays 21 December, 15 February, 19 April from 4PM to 4:45PM. Free for children under 13. €6.20 + price of admission for accompanying adults. Children must be accompanied. Duration: 45 minutes. From age 3 and up.

MAMAC

Place Yves Klein – 06364 Nice cedex 4
+33 (0)4 97 13 42 01 – mamac-nice.org

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EXHIBITION BOOK

On sale at the museum store
Foreword : Jean-Jacques Aillagon
Essays : Estelle Zhong Mengual, Hélène Guenin, Rébecca François
Copublishing Silvana editoriale / MAMAC
22,5 x 26,5 cm - 128 p. - 25 €