

January 26 – March 8, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:
203-622-7947
PR@flinngallery.com

Greenwich, CT - December 2016 Flinn Gallery is pleased to announce the opening of *Art in Bloom*, an exhibition of colorful, flower-filled and nature-inspired paintings by five regional artists, on Thursday, January 26, 2017, 6-8 pm.

With *Art in Bloom*, the Flinn Gallery proffers an antidote to the winter blues. Mid-winter in the Northeast isn't easy. By the end of January, we begin to dream of spring's arrival. Artists, who are known for being uniquely attuned to their environment, are often the first to observe and record the lengthening shadows of autumn, the darkest nights of winter, and the long-awaited arrival of spring. In *Ode to the West Wind*, poet Percy Bysshe Shelley wrote, "Drive my dead thoughts over the universe, like withered leaves to quicken a new birth! O Wind, if Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?" After seeing the elegant and color-filled paintings adorning the walls of the Flinn's light-filled gallery, the answer is certainly yes. The exhibit, curated by Claire Furlin and Joann Terracciano, includes a weekly flower arrangement created by one of seven different garden clubs, inspired by the artists' work. In the gallery, at least, Spring is already here.

Jackie Battenfield, a self-described "painter of natural forces" with an MFA from Syracuse University, works with paint pigments suspended in an aqueous mix. She says, "I pour, sweep, brush, drip, and fling layers of paint. I coax pools of paint into translucent veils of color and layer one over the other." Author of a successful book called "The Artist's Guide: How to Make a Living Doing What You Love," she also lectures on the topic of artists and the art market. She was the first director of the Rotunda Gallery (now BRIC Arts Media) in Brooklyn and is a recipient of the Pollack-Krasner Foundation Grant.

Brooklyn-based artist **Annette Davidek** was born in Flint, Michigan and received her MFA from Hunter College. She has exhibited her work continuously since 1991 and her paintings are included in numerous private and public collections including Weil, Gotshal & Manges, NY and the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, San Francisco, CA. She takes her inspiration from diagrams of plants, organic life forms and technical illustrations; her work recalls natural forms like roots, branches, coral and algae. Her most recent paintings are influenced by Japanese prints and textiles.

A graduate of Loyola University, emerging artist **Julia Berkeley Heck** worked as a textile designer for Ralph Lauren before becoming a full-time artist. "Painting is my meditation and prayer," she says. "When I work, I am reminded to connect to the essence of life. My challenge is to reveal positive energy and inspiration in all of my art...I intend to capture and illustrate the pulse within a flowerbed, beehive or the sea— to value the fire that every living thing holds."

After attending Cooper Union where she received a BFA in graphic design, **Jeanne Reiner** enjoyed a successful career designing for major NYC houses such as Estee Lauder, Elizabeth Arden and Karl Lagerfeld. She then shifted gears, receiving her Certificate in Botanical Art from the NY Botanical Gardens in 2014. She is a member of the American Society of Botanical Artists and has exhibited her work at the Greenwich Arts Society, Garden Education Center in Greenwich, Bartlett Arboretum in Stamford, and Filoli in Woodside, CA. "Botanical art has evolved," she explains. "It is no longer adherent to the prim perfect floral images which populated the genre throughout its history. Contemporary artists, such as myself, are transforming the genre to align it more closely to 21st century sensibilities."

In April 2016, Hyperallergic's Jennifer Samet sat down with painter **Bill Scott** for one of their signature "Beer with a Painter" interviews. "With their deep rose and blue-green hues," Samets writes, his paintings "abstractly suggest plant forms, branches, and the low skylines of his native Philadelphia." An established artist with an impressive exhibition history, Scott's style is "steeped in the modernist color tradition," according to NY Times art critic Grace Glueck in her review of his show Hollis Taggart Galleries. She notes that his influences include impressionist painter Berthe Morisot and the abstract expressionist Joan Mitchell. Describing Scott's paintings, ArtfixDaily.com has observed that "the dynamic shapes and bold colors resemble nothing to that of an actual landscape. However, this cheerful moment is preserved, whereas in a living garden it would otherwise be fragile and fleeting."

The public is invited to attend *Art in Bloom's* opening celebration on **Thurs. Jan. 26th, 6-8 pm.**

Arrangements will be created and displayed in the gallery weekly by Greenwich garden clubs Green Fingers, Greenwich Garden Club, Knollwood Garden Club, Riverside Garden Club, Garden Education Center, and Hortulus.

On **Sun. Feb. 5th at 3pm**, landscape architect Susan Cohen will speak in the gallery about Monet's Garden.

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Kathy di Giovanna or Karen Sheer 203-622-7967 PR@FLINNGALLERY.COM