

FOR RELEASE NOW
SEPTEMBER 2014

The Floral Ghost

SIMRYN GILL, FLORIAN MEISENBERG, KATIA SANTIBAÑEZ, PHILIP TAAFFE,
FRED TOMASELLI, AND ANTON WÜRTH, SUSAN ORLEAN

EXHIBITION DATES

OCTOBER 24 - DECEMBER 12, 2014

EXHIBITION RECEPTION

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 6 - 9PM

HOURS / MON - SAT, 12 - 5PM



THIS OCTOBER, PLANTHOUSE GALLERY HAS INVITED six artists — Simryn Gill, Florian Meisenberg, Katia Santibañez, Philip Taaffe, Fred Tomaselli, and Anton Würth — along with the writer Susan Orlean, to consider plants and the perpetually changing nature of the city, as seen through the prism of the gallery's location in New York's historic Plant District. Co-curated by May Castleberry and Raymond Foye in association with Planthouse, *The Floral Ghost* takes, as a guide, the defining image of the scraped-down, faded layers of botanical prints which papered the walls (and appear on the homepage of the gallery's website) of the former plant shop before its 2012 renovation and subsequent transformation into a gallery space. The gallery serves as a temporary hub for work that explores the ephemeral nature of commerce, merchandising and urban evolution, much like the delicate nature of the plant itself. Using printed, drawn and painted matter, *The Floral Ghost* invites these artists to contribute another layer of botanically inspired imagery to the storied walls of 107 West 28th Street.

In addition to the work displayed in the space, each artist has also created an original print for this exhibition. The gallery's cold cellar (once used to preserve plants) will play host to a site-specific installation by Philip Taaffe consisting of never-before exhibited "mechanical-botanical" silkscreened images, which are used as a basis for many of his paintings. Additionally, the exhibition will include an original, on-site graphite wall drawing by Katia Santibañez, a large, limited edition photograph by Malaysia-based Simryn Gill, intricate etchings by Anton Würth, gouaches on unique photograph by Fred Tomaselli, a painting from Florian Meisenberg, and an essay penned by Susan Orlean reflecting on a poignant moment when she first visited the lively floral district in its resplendent heyday.

THE FLORAL GHOST PRINT PORTFOLIO

Six original prints by Simryn Gill, Florian Meisenberg, Katia Santibañez, Philip Taaffe, Fred Tomaselli, and Anton Würth, as well as an essay by Susan Orlean, will be published by Planthouse as a portfolio, which measures approximately 15 x 20 inches. The prints include: an engraving by Anton Würth, printed by the artist in Germany; a linoleum and woodcut print by Katia Santibañez, printed by Mae Shore of Shore Publishing in Tuxedo, New York; a photogravure by Simryn Gill, printed by Lothar Osterberg in Brooklyn; 50 unique monoprints by Philip Taaffe printed by the artist in New York; a silkscreen and an image by Florian Meisenberg printed by letterpress and silkscreen by Brad Ewing at The Grenfell Press; and a photogram and silkscreen by Fred Tomaselli, printed by Erik Hougen at The Lower East Side Print Shop. Planthouse co-directors Katie Michel and Brad Ewing designed the portfolio and printed a broadside with Susan Orleans' text to accompany the portfolio as well as for wider circulation.

The edition is limited to 50 copies numbered 1-50. The contents of the portfolio will be made available to a broader audience as a book or in a digital format.

Co-curators May Castleberry and Raymond Foye have had their fingers on New York City's ever shifting cultural pulse for decades. Castleberry works as the editor of contemporary editions for the Library Council of The Museum of Modern Art and Foye as the publisher for Hanuman Books.

Planthouse is the project space of two printer/publishers, Katie Michel and Brad Ewing. Brad Ewing is an artist, publisher, master-printer and professor at the Pratt Institute, Brooklyn. Katie Michel is a graphic designer, and print publisher; she serves on the boards of the International Print Center of New York and the Wave Hill public garden and cultural center in Riverdale, New York. They met at The Grenfell Press where they have been colleagues and collaborators for over ten years.

The work of *Floral Ghost* contributing artists appears courtesy of the following galleries: C.G. Boerner, LLC, James Cohan Gallery, Kate MacGarry, Luhring Augustine, Morgan Lehman Gallery, Simone Subal, Tracy Williams Ltd.

Planthouse

KATIE MICHEL AND BRAD EWING

107 WEST 28TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10001

TELEPHONE 212 564 5500 PLANTHOUSE.NET KPLUSB@PLANTHOUSE.NET