



Flower Power at the Beach

If you go to the beach this weekend and need a little break from the sand and sea, head over to L.A. Louver gallery on North Venice Boulevard. There you will find a show that, interestingly, unites artworks by artists including **Alison Saar**, **David Hockney**, **Henri Matisse**, and the architect **Thom Mayne**. This is [The Flower Show](#), a new exhibition celebrating the flower in art, with works in different media by over 50 artists dating from the early 19th century to now.

The show features works ranging from this surreal "invasive plant," below, by "eco-painter" **Penelope Gottlieb** through sweet bouquets by Hockney to Mayne's iridescent clouds of leaf forms made through layering UV ink on aluminum, and an interactive digital piece by **teamlab** where flowers bloom and die, with the viewer an agent in the cycle of renewal.

The show's co-curator **Elizabeth Best** explains: "Ever since the ancient Egyptians symbolized the sun and creation with a lotus, flowers have held a place in art. However, within the canon of Western art, until the later decades of the nineteenth century the depiction of the flower was... often assigned to the decorative and deemed "suitable" for female pursuit. Since the birth of modern art this has changed: the motif has given artists the freedom to explore a multiplicity of issues, including the body, spirituality and the environment, in addition to... love, joy, abundance and hope, to resilience, nostalgia and loss."

[The Flower Show](#) is on view at L.A. Louver through September 1.



Colocasia esculenta, 2023, acrylic and ink over a digital reproduction of an Audubon print. © Penelope Gottlieb.