



# STRANGE FLOWERS



(Chong, Honeycutt, Lincoln, Linhares , Sack and Weiss)

## Exhibition Statement

In the art and fashion worlds this season, flowers bloom in gallery and museum exhibitions and flourish in upscale window displays, pop-up shop exteriors and a myriad of high-end products from handbags to vases.

Yet beneath their decorative veneer flowers possess a strange morbidity. The desire to encapsulate their beautiful forms is to contain that which cannot be controlled. Michel Houellebecq jokes in *The Map and The Territory* ( 2010. p17-18) that “the flower’s will to live manifests itself in the dazzling spots of color which break the greenish banality of the urban landscap, as well as the generally transparent banality of the urban landscape—or at least in municipalities in bloom.” A long-standing custom of sending flowers in the event of illness and death persists. Sadie Stein observes of Childe Hassam’s painting “The Room of Flowers,” 1894, that documents poet Celia Thaxter’s room the year of her demise, that the flowers depicted symbolically replace Thaxter’s body after her death.[1]

## Artists

Cecile Chong, Elisabeth Condon, Nancy Friedemann, Brece Honeycutt, Amy Lincoln, Judith Linhares, Rebecca Saylor Sack, Chrysanne Stathacos, Jessica Weiss, Jimmy Wright

**Organized by** Elisabeth Condon

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**Exhibition Poster:** Jessica Weiss GENIE 2014 (detail) Silkscreen, acrylic and collage on canvas 70 x 68 inches

## Westbeth Gallery

55 Bethune St. at Washington St., New York, NY 10014  
[westbethgallery@gmail.com](mailto:westbethgallery@gmail.com)

**Exhibition Dates:** September 9 – September 30, 2017

**Gallery Hours:** Wednesday – Sunday 1 – 6 PM

**Opening Reception:** Saturday, September 9, 6 PM to 8 PM

**Gallery Walk-Through with Selected Artists** 4:30 – 5:30 PM

Strange Flowers considers what flowers symbolize to artists working with flowers today and who have worked with them a while. What compels artists to utilize flowers? How do flowers function as image, form or structure for each artist, and in a larger context help navigate life? How can frail flowers combat global instability, terror, falsity? Do flowers' reminder of life's fleeting beauty inspire artists, or in fact do they perceive flowers as beautiful at all?

[1] Stein, Sadie. On the Island of The Shoals with Celia Thaxter. Paris Review, February 4, 2016.



*Nancy Friedemann CORNUCOPIA 2016 India Ink on Tyvek 225 x 108 inches*

#### **Artist Links:**

Cecile Chong, NY, NY

<http://cecilechong.com>

Elisabeth Condon, NY, NY

<http://elisabethcondon.com>

Nancy Friedemann-Sanchez, Brooklyn, NY - Nebraska

<http://www.nancyfriedemann.com/chapter-2/1>

Brece Honeycutt, Sheffield, MA

<http://brecehoneycutt.com>

Amy Lincoln, Brooklyn, NY

<http://amylincoln.com/paintings/1>

Judith Linhares, Brooklyn, NY

[http://www.judithlinhares.com/Gouache\\_BlueVase.html](http://www.judithlinhares.com/Gouache_BlueVase.html)

Rebecca Saylor Sack, Philadelphia, PA

<http://rebeccasaylorsack.net>

Chrysanne Stathacos, Toronto, Athens

<http://chrysannestathacos.com>

Jessica Weiss, Brooklyn, NY

<http://jessicaweiss.net>

Jimmy Wright, NY, NY

<http://www.jimmywrightartist.com/works/>



Bruce Honeycutt *FLASHCARDS: WILDFLOWERS 2016*  
ecoprint on paper, child's slate, vintage flash cards 73 x  
24 x 8 inches



Cecile Chong *WORK IN PROGRESS FOR STRANGE*  
*FLOWERS 2017 (detail) Flowers, foam paint. Dimensions*  
*variable*

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