



The Great Opening, Oakland's Roses Come to Life, Morcom Amphitheater of Roses 2015

30x22"

Kevin's Flowers

Flowers in the garden, the park, and the wild are all bright stars in a wave of energy that has been traveling around the globe since the first humans set foot on the Planet's surface.

Flowers are pilgrims, immigrants, sages. They are our first teachers and your Inner Child's oldest playmates.

When the rest of the prehistoric world challenged us to fight, flowers called us to love. Tempting us to run into fields of color and scent, to forget the daily struggle for survival, to laugh, to play, and experience life beyond the need to survive.

The mystery and promise of each flower helped our nascent species imagine and believe in our potential. Fresh blooms inspire hope. And then, as readily as the season's flowers appear, they are gone. The flowers may die every year, but the dream they inspire continues to thrive and grow in us all.

- Oakland, 2015



HUMAN CULTURE, love, and magic begin in the garden.

Kevin Woodson's flower paintings are recognized throughout the Bay and around the world for their vibrancy and depth. Kevin's flowers follow in the footsteps of Bay Area greats Gary Bukovnik and Sally Robertson, using art to give flowers a place in our contemporary cultural dialogue. As a painter, Kevin is cutting his own path, foregoing pencil, photography, and cut flowers to focus on the vast passion and peace presented in the ephemeral moment of a blossom.

As an artist, Kevin has lived in the Bay Area since he moved here from the gardens of Illinois in 1991. Although his passion is the botanical world, he's pushed the frontiers of art here, working with local bands, circus performers, performance art, and black light installations. In addition to community gardens, Kevin has artistically collaborated with San Francisco institutions like Project Open Hand, Cellspace, Folsom Street Fair, and the San Francisco Day of the Dead Ritual Procession.

"My paintings also begin in the gardens, greenhouses, in cloud forests, and anywhere flowers are blooming. When I make the first watercolor strokes on the blank paper, I strive to paint the ephemera and drama of human passion, captured in a single bloom."

"I've found that through a lifetime of profound loss and joy, my commitment to the flowers holds steadfast. Flowers are my first memory, with me since the age of two. Mom's backyard garden proved to be inspiration for a lifetime of painting."

In 2016, Kevin will host two major exhibits in the Bay Area, and produce collections for Asian and Mexican galleries.

Join Kevin in San Francisco this February at SPARK ARTS, 4229 18th St, for his a vibrant, fun collection of paintings: Mardi Gras is Forever In Flowers.

The story of my name

My greatest teacher, floral designer Matthew Juho Matsuyama, taught me to talk with the flowers - not just observe them. Before he died, Matthew wished for me to adopt a Japanese rendering of my name. The characters I spell 'Florid Person.' I use this signature with love and respect for Matthew, who will always be a part of me and of every flower.

Artist Bio and Highlights

KEVIN WOODSON is an Oakland California artist who paints living flowers in the gardens where they grow. Kevin has been painting and exhibiting in the Bay Area for over 20 years.

HIGHLIGHTED EXHIBITS, PERFORMANCE,

UPCOMING — FIESTA DE DALIAS EN ACUARLAS, solo exhibition, lecture, participation in Dahlia culture and public ritual, Mexican Dahlia Society, Mexico City, August 2015

June 2015 — POLLINATION, OAKLAND STYLE, Solo exhibit at Oakland City Hall

November 2014 — THE HOUSE OF FLOWERS, solo exhibit, International Flower Essence Center, Taipei, Taiwan

September 2014 — VIBRANT IMPRESSIONS: Joint exhibit with Elen Dreibelbis at Creative Framing Gallery, Oakland CA

July 2014 — Oakland Magazine Reader's Choice Best Artist 2014

June 2014 — KEVIN'S FLOWERS GO TO CITY HALL: Solo exhibit at Oakland City Hall

March 2014 — FLOWERS FOR THE NEW YEAR: solo exhibit at Galleria Scola, Oakland

2013-Current — KEVIN'S FLOWERS IN ASIA: Solo exhibit at Living Lab Gallery, Zhongli; Solo exhibit at Together Arts, Taipei; Solo exhibit at the International Flower Essence Center

November 2013 — DANCING IN THE GARDEN, solo exhibit at Grand Lake Ace Flower and Garden Center, Oakland

2011-2013 — OAKLAND ART MURMUR — Monthly participant in Oakland's world famous First Friday art stroll at Uptown Body and Fender Gallery, www.uptownbody.com

November 2012 — PS Gallery at Four Seasons Hotel, San Francisco, solo exhibit

May 2012 — CK Gallery, Oakland, Juried Exhibition 'A Sense of Place'

June 2011 — ART AND MUSIC IN THE GARDEN — The Gardens At Lake Merritt.

May 2011 — Book publishing: THE LANGUAGE OF FLOWERS: Flowers by Kevin, Poetry by Juan Pablo Gutierrez. The immediate beauty of flowers and ancient tales of love and magic

ONGOING — BLOOM AND BRUSH: flower painting class at Joyce Gordon Gallery, Oakland

ONGOING — Visual Ink LLC — Founding partner in San Francisco-based visual communications company www.vicreative.com

ONGOING — San Francisco Day of the Dead: supporting artist, the annual ritual procession

February 2001 — BIRD POEMS — Coyote Point Museum, San Mateo, CA: Watercolors and poems featuring the birds of Lake Merritt, this hemisphere's oldest bird sanctuary.

1997 CRUCIBLE STEEL GALLERY — Curator, Cellspace community gallery, San Francisco

1969-Current — SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS — portraits at street fairs; posters for rock bands; daily political cartoons and daily comic strip for the Michigan Daily; black light on black velvet painting installations; SF Gay Pride Project Open Hand award-winning float; High School graphic recording instructor at Balboa in SF and Fremont in Oakland; punkrock spandex performance art; daily online cartoon The King of Kook; other comic books and stories.

UPCOMING — MARDI GRAS IN FLOWERS, Spark Arts, San Francisco, February 2016

UPCOMING — JOYCE GORDON GALLERY, solo exhibit, Oakland, June 2015

UPCOMING — UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA GALLERY, Kuala Lumpur, November 2016





Corvus Rising Above the Magnolias of Planet Vulcan, Gardens at Lake Merritt 2015

22x16"

Links and Contact info

Kevin's Flowers are current and updated at his website:

<http://www.kevinwoodson.com>

join Kevin on Facebook to see fresh-painted flowers uploaded from gardens around the world:

www.facebook.com/kevinwoodsonflowers

get your own copy of Kevin's book, The Language of the Flowers, El Lenguaje de las Flores:

<http://www.kevinsbookshop.com>

Contact Kevin for more information, with good ideas, and flower stories of your own,

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