

PRESS RELEASE

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## The Secret Language of Flowers

Exhibition Dates: Thursday 12 May to Saturday 6 June 2011

Private View: 6.00pm to 9.00pm Wednesday 11 May 2011

Performance by Lynn Lu: 2.00pm to 5.00pm Saturday 21 May 2011



**“When chivalry was still alive ... flowers and poems were the only gifts exchanged by lovers... Every bouquet and garland was carefully composed according to its legendary meaning. Joy and grief, triumph and woe, admiration and gratitude, love and desire, every human sentiment had its floral emblem.” *Folklore and Symbolism of Flowers, Plants and Trees*, Ernst & Johanna Lehner, 1960.**

Andipa Contemporary is proud to present *The Secret Language of Flowers*, a group exhibition showcasing the work of eight emerging artists with their own fresh and contemporary take on the age-old motif of the flower and its meaning in art and life today. Running from 12 May to 6 June 2011 at Andipa Gallery, Knightsbridge, the show coincides with the biggest international celebration of the flower: *The Chelsea Flower Show*, taking place a stone’s throw from the gallery.

Beginning with the very first still-life drawings, to Banksy’s *Flower Thrower*, the pop

artist Andy Warhol's early silkscreens of daisies and hibiscus blossoms and Lichtenstein's *Water Lilies*, flowers have never ceased to seduce the artist with their delicacy, their transience and their riotous colour.

The term 'the secret language of flowers' was coined in the Victorian era when each genus of flower was classified as evocative of a certain feeling or emotion. Flowers were used to covertly convey messages of love or despair: the red tulip a profession of love, the marigold a declaration of pain and grief.

The artists in this exhibition have used flowers, infinite in their formal and symbolic potential, to express the relationship between art and life, nature and culture, beauty and consumption, survival and adaptation.

Constructed from atypical materials such as foreign currency, lace, bone ash and wax, artworks in *The Secret Language of Flowers* subvert the decorative function of flowers in art. Some of the artists comment on flowers as a stock subject or cliché, others explore the extent to which Nature's unrestrained blooms are expressive of culture as a civilising force and others celebrate the beauty and power of natural colour.

We are also proud to announce that the internationally renowned performance artist Lynn Lu will be performing a piece conceived in response to *The Secret Language of Flowers* and specially commissioned by Andipa Contemporary. Lynn Lu has most recently performed in the *Turbine Hall at Tate Modern, Mushashino Art University, Tokyo and Turbine Hall, Giswil, Switzerland*.

Challenging how we look at and relate to flowers as a subject in art, the works in *The Secret Language of Flowers* concertedly demonstrate the potential of art to assign new meanings to everyday objects and transform our perspectives on the ordinary.

**Notes to Editors:** *The Secret Language of Flowers* is the first of a series of annual exhibitions planned by Andipa Contemporary exploring the flower in contemporary art

For further press information and images please contact Rosa Attwood by email at [press@andipa.com](mailto:press@andipa.com) or by telephone +44 (0)20 7589 2371.

**END**

**Notes to Editors**

**Full List of Artists on Exhibit**

**Henny Burnett**

Recent solo shows include *The Shoemaker's Shrine*, Northampton Museum and Art Gallery, Northampton (2009); Installation '*Uncle Eric's Box II*', Gallery II, University of Bradford (2004) and *The Language of Ghosts*, Southside Arts, Southampton (2002).



**Jodie Carey**

Recent solo exhibitions include *Somewhere, Nowhere* at The Pumphouse Gallery, London (2011), *Blood Lines*, Art Forum, Berlin (2010).



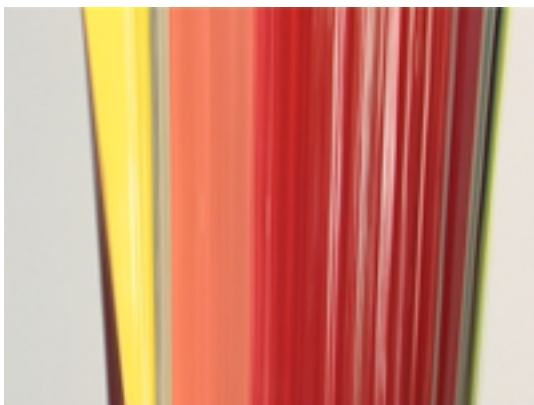
### Hugo Dalton

Commissions include: for Barney's New York, Derwent London and a set for Christopher Wheeldon's work at Sadler's Wells. He also has a permanent work in Liberty of London, and has completed many private residence commissions worldwide. His collectors range from David Roberts to Sam Parker Bowles, Anthony de Rothschild, Nam Lu Pat, Kay Saatchi and the Today Art Museum, Beijing.



### Tony Heywood

Exhibitions include *Grow* at Selfridges (2011), *Micro-landscapes* installation, Berkeley Square Gardens, London (2011 to 2012), *Space Ritual* at Tatton Park (2010), *Ooze* at Sparkle, Tate Britain (2006).



### Lynn Lu

Recent performances include *Free Secrets* at the Turbine Hall in Tate Modern (2010); *Crossroads*, Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA), Singapore, 10th OPEN Performance Art Festival 1798 Art Zone, Beijing, China (2010).



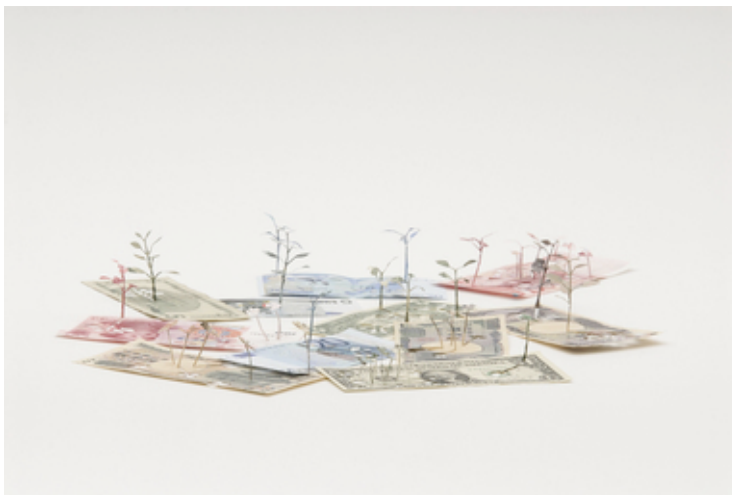
### **Kate Street**

Recent exhibitions include *Flower Power*, Villa Giulia - CRAA Centro Ricerca Arte Attuale, Italy (2009). *Angels of Perversity*, Cross Gallery, Dublin, Ireland (2009).



### **Yuken Teruya**

Recent exhibitions include *My Great Grandma Is USA*: Ueno Royal Museum, Tokyo, Japan (2009); *Roppongi Crossing*: Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan (2010); *Wall Rockets*, Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, USA (2009) and *The Shapes of Space*: Guggenheim Museum, New York, USA (2004). Yoshikazu Nema is the photographer of Teruya's work.



### **Clare Twomey**

Exhibitions include *Specimen* at The Royal Academy, *Dark Day in Paradise*, Brighton Pavilion both (2010), *The Collection*, Victoria & Albert Museum and *Monument*, MIMA (2009)



### **Exhibition information**

Exhibition Dates: 12 May to 6 June 2011, Private View 6.00pm to 9.00pm 11 May  
Performance by Lynn Lu: 2.00pm to 5.00pm Saturday 21 May 2011

Opening Times: Monday to Friday 9:30am – 6.00pm, Saturday 11.00am – 6.00pm  
Andipa Gallery, 162 Walton Street, London, SW3 2JL Tel: 020 7589 2371 / [www.andipa.com](http://www.andipa.com)  
Closest tube stations: Knightsbridge and South Kensington

The artists, Eliza Tan, Curator of Special Projects and Claire Mander, Head of Contemporary, are available for interviews.

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