



Wildflowers

Featuring works by Heather Drayzen, Ramiro Hernandez, Andrew Leventis, Lucia Rodriguez Perez, Conrad Ruiz, and Paige Turner Uribe

June 14, 2025 - August 2, 2025

Massey Klein Gallery is pleased to present *Wildflowers*, a group exhibition featuring works by Heather Drayzen, Ramiro Hernandez, Andrew Leventis, Lucia Rodriguez Perez, Conrad Ruiz, and Paige Turner Uribe. The exhibition will be on view from June 14th through August 2nd. An opening reception will be held on Saturday, June 14th from 6-8pm. For press inquiries or questions regarding works available, please email info@masseyklein.com.

Where flowers bloom, so does hope.

- Lady Bird Johnson

The flower is one of the oldest and most-used symbols in Western art history. Imbued with personal, cultural, and religious significance, the flower has been interpreted and reinterpreted, assigned and reassigned meaning, for millennia. From the lotus flower in Ancient Egyptian art to the decaying bouquet *memento mori* of the Renaissance to the abstracted technicolor depictions of Pop Art, artists have forever engaged and celebrated the flower's ability to communicate.

Artists have not only been responsible for disseminating the flower's symbolic meaning at any given time in history—they are the pioneers who have continually shifted its interpretation. Informed by developing religions, political dominance, scientific inquiry, societal customs, and a deep curiosity in nature, artists have challenged the way in which flowers can be portrayed and interpreted in art. These re-interpreters are names readily recognized - Leonardo da Vinci, Albrecht Dürer, Maria van Oosterwijck, Eugène Delacroix, Édouard Manet, Claude Monet, Vincent van Gogh, Georgia O'Keeffe, Andy Warhol, Takashi Murakami, Kehinde Wiley. Across time periods, religions, cultures, geographies, and artistic styles, the flower has always been, and remains to be, a powerful, relatable, and personal symbol.

The six artists in *Wildflowers* continue the millennia-old tradition of depicting, interpreting, and (re)assigning meaning to flowers. The exhibition weaves together different perspectives shaped by diverse backgrounds and identities, styles and techniques, and intentions and influences, encapsulating the complexities of artistic expression and human experience. *Wildflowers*

challenges the viewer to set aside preconceived notions and abandon expectations in order to view the world through another's eyes. Just like a meadow filled with wildflowers, there is irreplicable beauty in diversity.

Heather Drayzen's paintings draw upon her lived experiences, interior world, and emotions with a tender, intimate touch. Taking place in an atmosphere of iridescent golden light, her depicted experiences highlight the passage of time while nodding to art historical influences such as Bonnard, Vuillard, Morisot, and Munch. Drayzen earned a BFA from the School of Visual Arts, New York, and an MAT from the Rhode Island School of Design. Her debut solo exhibition opened at My Pet Ram (NYC) in May 2024, and her work has recently been featured in a two-person exhibition at The Middle Room Gallery (Los Angeles) and on David Zwirner's *Platform*. Drayzen was an artist-in-residence at the Vermont Studio Center in 2023 and will attend the Hafnarborg Residency in Iceland in 2025. Her work has been featured in *ArtMaze Magazine* and her works on paper were included in *Trove*, presented by Deanna Evans Projects in 2023. The artist lives and works in Brooklyn.

Ramiro Hernandez presents scenes of idolized adolescence, innocent youth, dawning awareness, and moments of discovery, all framed through a lens influenced by the suburban and coastal landscapes of Southern California. Hernandez holds a BFA in Painting from the California College of the Arts in San Francisco in 2010. The artist has had two solo exhibitions with Massey Klein Gallery, *Local Realism* (2024) and *Alta Vista* (2022), and, in 2024, co-curated the group exhibition *GHOST SHIP* with BOZOMAG. His work has been featured in recent exhibitions at Monti8 (Rome), Harkawik Gallery (NYC), BOZOMAG (Los Angeles), La Loma Projects (Los Angeles), F2T Gallery (Milan), Marinaro Gallery (NYC), and on David Zwirner's *Platform*. Hernandez was featured by *New American Paintings* in their 2021 Pacific Coast issue, selected by juror Dominic Molon. The artist lives and works in Los Angeles, CA.

Andrew Leventis makes meticulously detailed oil paintings of contemporary vanitas, a motif popularized in early still life in which food, flowers, and other perishable objects represent the fleeting nature of life and the passing of time. The artist obtained a BFA in Painting from the American Academy of Art in Chicago, an MA Fine Art from Wimbledon College of Art at the University of Arts London, and an MFA Fine Art from Goldsmiths College at the University of London. His work has been featured in recent exhibitions at Long Story Short (NYC), Abigail Ogilvy Gallery (Los Angeles), SOCO Gallery (Charlotte), Zepster Gallery (Brooklyn), Museum of Contemporary Art Krakow (Poland), and Mint Museum Uptown (Charlotte). The artist was featured by *New American Paintings* in their 2021 South issue, selected by juror Molly Boarati, and in their 2020 South issue, selected by juror Emily Stamey. Leventis is currently an Assistant Professor of Painting at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, NC. The artist lives and works in Charlotte, NC.

Lucia Rodriguez Perez's practice explores a new reality that is both unrealistic and believable, where light and space bend to form a unique and intriguing world. Her created dreamlike spaces allow organic elements and architectural features to interact, emphasizing their contrasting qualities while highlighting their similarities. Rodriguez received a BFA from the Pontificia

Universidad Católica de Chile in Santiago and an MFA from the New York Academy of Art. Her work has been featured in recent exhibitions at Uprise Art (NYC), Spring Break Art Show (NYC), Rachel Uffner Gallery (NYC), Salon21 (NYC), Soft Times Gallery (San Francisco), and Alto Gallery (Denver). In 2024, the artist completed a residency at Kylemore Abbey, Notre Dame Global Centre in Kylemore, Ireland. Rodriguez has been featured in *Suboart Magazine*, *Artsin Square Magazine*, *Westword*, and *BOOOOOOOOM*. Her work is in the Fidelity Investments Corporate Collection (Boston, MA) and the Oxford Harriman & Company Collection (Beachwood, OH). The artist lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.

Conrad Ruiz's colorful and energetic watercolors explore the boundary between fantasy and reality, featuring themes of masculinity, athleticism, extremity, and humanity's precarious relationship with itself and the planet. With a nod to traditional history painting layered with modern image consumption, Ruiz's watercolors contrast a delicate renewal with destruction. The artist received an MFA from the California College of the Arts. He has recently exhibited at Louise Alexander Gallery (Los Angeles), Galerie Droste (Düsseldorf and Paris), Frederick R. Weisman Museum (Malibu), The Pit (Palm Springs and Los Angeles), Harper's (Los Angeles), and Stems Gallery (Paris), and on David Zwirner's *Platform*. Ruiz has been featured in *The Hollywood Reporter*, *It's Nice That*, and in *New American Paintings* in their 2013 Pacific Coast issue, selected by juror Janet Bishop, and in their 2010 Pacific Coast issue, selected by juror Lawrence Rinder. The artist lives and works in Los Angeles.

Paige Turner Uribe uses color, light and the ambiguities in between to convey her interest in the sublime. Combining perceptions of physical realities and experiences, her open-ended narratives depict scenes from everyday life, exploring the mystery of existence and themes of love and longing and encouraging the contemplation of nature's beauty. Turner-Uribe holds a BA in Painting & Printmaking from San Diego State University and an MFA in Painting & Drawing from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Massey Klein Gallery featured her work in *Kids Without the Internet*, a group exhibition curated by Thea Smolinski in 2024. Recent exhibitions include those at Ochi Gallery (Los Angeles and Sun Valley, ID), NADA New York (NYC), Smoke the Moon (Santa Fe), Mindy Solomon Gallery (Miami), and Newel Gallery (Brooklyn), and on David Zwirner's *Platform*. Turner-Uribe has been featured in *Southwest Contemporary Magazine*, *The New Yorker*, *Club Sandwich Magazine*, *Shoutout LA*, and *Voyage LA*, among others, and currently lives and works in Los Angeles, CA.