

THE BEST CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW INSPIRED EXHIBITIONS

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Jane Hammond 'Champagne Bucket with Black Fritillaria' 2018

This month, London is blooming with botanical exhibitions to celebrate the Chelsea Flower Show, from floral artworks by emerging and established contemporary artists to installations designed to bring nature into communal areas and champion charitable causes.

At the Daniel Raphael Gallery in Marylebone, the 'Anthophile' exhibition (15 to 31 May) will explore the symbolism inherent in floral art, which can raise questions about mortality, materialism and spirituality. The group show encompasses work by 11 artists spanning various disciplines and perspectives, from the mixed-media approach of Julie Cockburn, who decorates existing paintings with inexpensive materials, to Tracey Emin's still-life painting on

newsprint, Caroline Mizrahi's Japanese-influenced creations and Emma Bass' hyper-real, brightly coloured photographs.

Elsewhere, the exhibition 'Natural Selection: New Botanical Collages' is being held at Mayfair's Lyndsey Ingram Gallery (10 May to 15 June). This solo show of Jane Hammond's work delves into the history of flower painting and traditional botanical prints. Hammond's collages are crafted through a combination of painting, photography, found objects and digital imagery – a multimedia approach the artist describes as "foraging", comparable to making a flower arrangement. In her *Champagne Bucket with Black Fritillaria*, for example, she uses lithography, digital printing, coloured pencils, sumi ink and watercolour.

LYNDSEY INGRAM

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